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W.D. Koenig
1982 - 1983

Hastings Reservation
Melanerpes formicivorous

1982
1983

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Hastings Reservation, Monterey Co., Calif.

11 November — The granary at ARF is well filled with acorns; clearly there is still a group here.

Meanwhile, 2 birds flushed from the granary at SOBO; they have lots of acorns stored here also.

23 November — Opened up the granary limbs at PUMP a bit by trimming some of the branches. Otherwise there's no action here, however, and the storage limbs continue a slow disintegration.

11 December — A new group? There's an unbanded pair (♂, ♀) working in a dead(?) Blue Oak in the canyon near ARF, TOO: see map on back. Maybe these are ARF, TOO birds, but they are definitely hanging out here and could be distinct, although I don't see any sign of stores or storage holes.

15 December — 1500. Here at POHill #1 are lots of stores and several birds, some of whom are clearly intruding here at the lower end of the field. Seen are (bands rough, mind you):

1) ♂ Da-Yel/Red-Yel
2) ♂ LB/Yel Yel/M
♀ Wh-Blk Wh-LB/M

1983

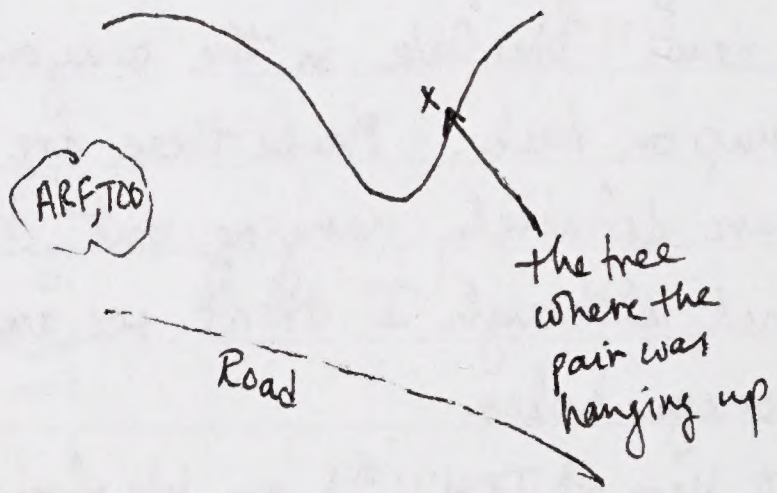
30 March — 1008. 2 Wickers over in the Valley Oaks ½ way to Blomone just got chased by the Lewis' Woodpecker out there.

9 April — 845. Passed the new group at MacRoberts Flat, flushing a ♂ with a M band on L Left (♂ M/ ?). He was shy, though, and I wasn't able to pick up more.

855. Way on the other side of the creek the ♂ was just joined by an unbanded ♀.

930. There are apparently 2 ♂♂ (both banded) and a ♀ here. (all 3 together here.)

Map of New(?) territory:



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HNHR Monterey Co. Calif.

30 May 830. Flushed a bird out of one of the opened holes at Blom 3, leaving some squealing babies...
850. Also young babies in the usual hole at CV#1.

6 June 845. Opened the hole at CV#1: 3 babies, ≈15 do., can be banded anytime.
940. At CV#2, a fledgling is being fed in the corner tree. Oh well. Can't find everybody in peripheral groups, I guess. I still wonder where their nest was... This group does have stores left, by the way.

13 June 1730. Still 3 babies at CV#1; 1 taken for Pam, the other 2 banded:

① (see capture record)
② 84.3 gm (93) [culmen 22.4 mm] DBlue/Green - "White" (n)
" / " "
③ 79.0 gm (92) Taken for PLW

7 July 1100. In Valley Oak at Blompond: j M/LP-DG or DB
Here by himself, apparently.

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Artificial Granaries HNHR

4 January 1520. No sign of anyone at Horsetail. In fact, the 2 styrofoam logs are still full of the acorns that Susan (no doubt) put in them to begin with.

11 January No sign of life at either artificial granary up on Haystack Hill. Both have been stripped of their acorns, however.

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Buckeye — Hastings Reservation

20 June 1020. After watching from the Chongo side of the canyon for an hour trying to localize a nest here I'm now near the granary watching. There were 2 ♀♀ up in the granary for a few minutes, one of whom was ♀ wh/ #664.

22 June Searched for 2 hours for the nest here, but with no hint of success at all.

6 July 1930. Walked around up here and checked all the holes, but saw noone nor any sign of a nest.

30 September 1015. There are still acorns stored here as well as birds around, but I checked all the holes and noted no sign of a fall nest in progress.

22 October 900. Plenty of stores here. Watching. Need a hide.

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Chongo HNHR

22 October 830. Flushed 1 bird in coming up to count stores: 706

2 November Was here at roosting but saw nothing.

16 November 1410. Watching from hide. ♀ in granary; this bird appears blind in her left eye. At best it's exceedingly dark.

1425. The ♀ flew across the canyon to a large Blue Oak, joining a ♂ there. Both are now there eating acorns, and appear to be unbanded (it is a long ways away, however).

1515. Leaving. No sign of the jaw, but another watch is certainly in order as they are not hanging around much.

H. Stern.

1983

4 January 1330. Counted stores: 666; essentially no change from October. Also took a sample of 25 acorns from the granary. The sample was frozen immediately.

10 May 1745. Took the 7 eggs out of the nest (6 normal, 1 runt) and plugged the incubation monitoring equipment into one of the normal eggs that I inadvertently broke while getting it down out of the hole.

11 May 1515. The thing's working, but noone has been in the nest since yesterday (I have a constant 19°+ reading). Have they abandoned the nest?

13 May 730. Checked the recorder: working fine, birds have been incubating constantly for some time!

16 May 1025. Took down the recording equipment, sacrificing the 1 egg. The probe was a little to one side but otherwise well inside the egg; I don't know why it was messing up as it did the last few days.

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Chongo HNHR

7 June 1645. Counted 12 stored acorns here; hence, this group is functionally out of stores. Concurrent with this: the nest has failed; inside was 1 long-dead nestling probably several days old but well maggot-ridden.

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Plaque HNHR

20 October 945. Counted stores: Plaque tree: 844
2° tree: 22
Tel pole: ~400 (see 21 Oct)
Total: 1266

Almost all the stores are still old (left over from last year). Correction: I just climbed up into the low dead limb in the Plaque tree and pulled a sample of 76 acorns, of which 56 (74%) were new! For the details on what I got, see back of sheet. These acorns were shelled immediately and put in the drying oven.

21 October 1000. Today I started an experiment here to (hopefully) show that the ability of the birds to get and store acorns is not a limiting factor. I opened the old roost hole in the Telephone Pole by the Chicken-coop, emptying out as many acorns as I could (the hole was already filled to the top with them. I was not able to get all the way to the bottom, but got as many as I could. The final count was Live Oak: 13, Valley Oak: 304 } 317. [All these are fresh]

The idea is for me to clear this hole out at regular intervals, assuming the birds continue to store here.

24 October 1600. Noticing that the roost hole in the telephone pole is already filled again (!), I went up and cleared it out to about the same degree as I did on the 21st. The final tally was Live Oak: 13, Valley Oak: 287 } 300. These 300 acorns had a fresh, unshelled weight of 1.87 kg. Not bad for 3 days of storing!

Acorns pulled from Plaque granary 20 Oct. 1982

		New		Old		
Q. agrifolia	OK	33	36	9	15	51
	< ½ ID	3		3		
	> ½ ID	0		3		
Q. lobata	OK	15	18	1	5	23
	< ½ ID	3		1		
	> ½ ID	0		3		
Q. douglasii	OK	2		0		2
		56		20		(76)

	New	OLD
% agr:	64	75
% lob:	32	25
% doug:	10	0

% ID

agr	8	40
lob	17	80

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Plague HNHR

27 October 1600. The hole was not quite refilled by now but was pretty close. The count: Valley Oak: 172½ (½ shelled acorn here)
Live Oak: 77
Total: 249½.
The weight of this load is 1.41 kg.

29 October 1200. The hole is already filled again! The count this time is:
Valley Oak: 210
Live Oak: 84
Blue Oak: 3
} Total: 297.
The weight of this load is 1.80 kg.

1 November 800. Emptied the hole, which is essentially filled again.
The counts are:
Valley Oak: 175
Live Oak: 95
Blue Oak: 40
} 310.
Weight: 1.77 kg.
The total stored now between 21 Oct and 31 Oct (= 10 days) comes to 1156½ acorns; total weight = 6.85 kg. (This doesn't include the original stores.)

2 November 1015. The hole is already filled again! I haven't been checking it nearly enough! The count today:
Valley Oak: 143½
Live Oak: 154
Blue Oak: 21
} Total: 318½
Weight: 1.76 kg.

3 November 1015. The hole is not quite filled this time.
Valley Oak: 73
Live Oak: 247
Blue Oak 20
} 340
Weight: 1.64 kg.

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Plague HNHR

10 November 1640-1650. ~~Too~~ Cleaned out the telephone pole hole, which is of course filled up completely. (My plan is now to do this 2 dys in a row once a week or so just to see how many they can store through the season in one day). Today's count:

Valley Oak:	159½	333½	Weight: 1.77 kg
Live Oak:	143		
Blue Oak:	31		

Current total: 2148½ in 20 days = 107 per day.

12 November 645. Emptied the hole (which isn't very full yet) essentially 1 day since 10 Nov. PM:

Valley Oak:	10	61	Weight = 0.31 kg.
Live Oak:	43		
Blue Oak:	8		

13 November 710. Now we're rolling again: the hole was completely filled!

Valley Oak:	87½	322½	Weight: 1.81 kg.
Live Oak:	210		
Blue Oak:	25		

14 November I went up and checked but did not empty the hole today - it was not full.

~~P~~ 1600. Counted stores:

Main tree:	1300	1657
2° tree	157	
Tel pole:	~200	

Thus they've added several hundred acorns to the 1° storage areas as well as having crammed the telephone pole with thousands of acorns (over 2500 to be exact).

21 November 1645. Emptied the hole just before dusk. This time

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Plaque HNHR

(21 November) it wasn't even nearly full yet:

Valley Oak: 18
Live Oak: 35 } 82. Weight: .37 kg.
Blue Oak: 29

22 November 1600. Took a sample of 60 acorns from low in the main trunk of the Plaque tree for my monthly sample. See back for the results [15 more added 23 Nov.]

1645. Checked the hole in the telephone pole, which is still empty (the birds have added 1 or 2 acorns to it only).

23 November 1245. Added 15 more stores from the dead limb in Plaque to the 60 I collected yesterday.

1645. Emptied the telephone pole hole, which only had

Valley Oak: 2
Live Oak: 13 } 16.
Blue Oak: 1

19 December Picked 75 more acorns out of the Plaque tree, mostly from the main trunk. See back for results.

1983

4 January 1400. Counted stores: Plaque tree 1497
2° tree: 108 } 2080 (Hole is full again)
Tel pole: ~475

24 January Took a sample of 75 acorns from high on the main trunk. See back of P.5 for details of the contents of this batch.

3 March Took my sample of of 75 acorns today. See back of P.5 for details.

Acorns pulled from Plague granary 22-23 Nov. 1982

Presumably all these are this year's acorns.

	OK	< ½ ID	Total	
Q. agrifolia	56	3	59	75
Q. lobata	10	5	15	
Q. douglasii	1	0	1	
Totals	67	8	75	

5 live grubs were found;
1 weevil (large) in Q.l.
2 small ? in Q. a.
2 weevils in bag.

%agr: 79%
%lob: 20%
%doug: 1%

%ID:
agr: 5%
lob: 33%

Acorns pulled from granary 19 Dec. 1982

	OK	< ½ ID	> ½ ID	Total
Q. agrifolia	43	6	1	50
Q. lobata	12	3	2	17
Q. douglasii	8	0	0	8
Total	63	9	3	75

%agr: 66%
%lob: 23%
%doug: 11%

%ID
agr: 14%
lob: 29%

12 Grubs came from this batch. 2 were "floating" (both weevils).
7 weevils were in live Oaks (4 in one acorn, 2 in another, 1 in 1).
2 other grubs were alive in agrifolia acorns.
The insect damage in the lobata was generally older; only 1 (probable) live weevil was detected in them.
Several acorns had exit holes — sometimes such acorns had live grubs in them and othertimes no.

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Plaque HNHR

13 April 1700. 5 eggs here now; the 2 since yesterday were marked #4 and 5.

14 April 930. Counted stores: only 295 total. After taking a sample of 35 from the dead limb in the Plaque tree I went to the hole in the telephone pole (which was empty) and filled it with Q. lobata acorns, probably about 300.

18 April 1500. Took the 6 eggs here so as to make them rewarm. Put the eggs in the incubator.

22 April Watched the (presumed) nest this morning from 620-800, neither ♀ came to the hole at all but ♂521 made 5 trips to the hole between 700-730 to take out wood chips. Hole was empty when I checked it at 800.

30 April 900. Checked the new nest: now 5 eggs (2 new ones marked #4 and 5 since hier). I also added a 6th egg rigged for incubation temperature monitoring and set the chart going at exactly 930 PST. (I used an infertile egg from their 1st nest.)

Well, the probe lasted exactly 1 hr 6 min before the birds ♂♀ pulled it out of the egg somehow!

5 June 1500. Counted stores: 75. Getting down there.

20 December 1200. Counted stores: 104. It is a bad year.

Acorns pulled from Plague granary 24 Jan. 1983

	OK	< ½ ID	> ½ ID	Total
Q. agrifolia	36	9	0	45
Q lobata	14	7	2	23
Q douglasii	6	1	0	7
Total	56	17	2	75

Only 4 grubs (live) were noted during shelling
2 small ones (not weevils) were in a lobata acorn
Single weevils were in each of 2 agrifolia acorns

Acorns pulled from Plague granary 3 March 1983

	OK	< ½ ID	> ½ ID	Total
Q agrifolia	31	5	2	38
Q lobata	20	7	4	31
Q douglasii	5	0	1	6
Total	56	12	7	75

8 live grubs were found, inc. 7 large moth(?) larvae, 4 in lobata and 3 in agrifolia, plus 1 weevil in an agrifolia

Acorns pulled 14 April 1983

	OK	< ½ ID	> ½ ID	Total
Q agrifolia	17	3	4	24
Q lobata	4 ♀ (all ♀ moldy)	2	1 ♂	7 ♂
Q douglasii	4 (3 moldy)	0	0	4
Total	25	5	5	35

1 large moth larva

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Y — Hastings Reservation

7 September The season is on! There are 2 birds in the locust behind the Lower Barn with fresh Live Oak acorns in their bills.

30 September 800.8669 up on knoll investigating the pies.

30 December 700. Ambushed here at a hole in a stub high (~55') up in the large Sycamore at the Y nabbing the unbanded ♀ (apparently the ♂ roosted elsewhere). She is now #848.

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1500 HNHR

23 October 1220. Counted stores: Main tree: 845
2° tree: 116
} 961.

1983

4 January 1445. Counted stores: Main tree: 2011
2° tree: 308
} 2319.

Also took a sample of 35 acorns from the stores, which I froze right away.

2 May 1400. Sacrificed egg #1 (there are 2 in the nest now, only 1 yesterday, so that's the one I used) for incubation monitoring. Everything looks great - I threaded the line through a hole in the bottom of the nest and you really can't tell it's there. So here's hoping. I started the recorder at 1436 PST.

8 May 915. Came down here to see what the problem is - specifically, why the recorder randomly jumps up to 45° and then settles back down. It turns out that whenever the egg moves the recorder goes crazy for some unknown reason. So I put a dab more epoxy on the egg to try and hold the wires more securely. Otherwise the temperatures seem fine, and perhaps a bonus is that we can tell every time they turn the eggs!

Also, egg #1 is not developing, of course, but neither is #2. Thus, only the 3rd egg will hatch, apparently.

13 May 800. Eggs not hatched yet; both #2 and 3 did develope.

14 May !1430! Nest failed! Hole empty! The scene: I arrive: noone in hole. Upon beginning to set up the rope ladder, I discover 1 embryo still in a rather smashed egg on the ground below the nest, and a 2nd embryo carcass, somewhat eaten,

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1500 HNHR

(14 May) nearby. (It had possibly hatched.) No sign of the plugged egg (the recorder is showing a constant 19.+ degrees). I climb the nest: it is indeed empty; the thermocouple is caught inside still, buried in the woodchips. Checking the record, I discover the record fairly normal looking at least through 1000 this morning; at that point there is an odd ½ hr + break, followed by ~~the~~ some short jumps, until at 1130 the temperature went down to ~19°C and stayed there. So: whatever/whoever did it, it was a diurnal beast. Another Acorn Woodpecker? This possibility is particularly intriguing if one of the babies had hatched, as hatching is a time that a fair number of odd disappearances have occurred over the years. In any case: the nest has failed, under odd circumstances. The incubation record is nonetheless virtually complete.

5 June 1600. Counted stores: 140, all in Main tree.

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1800 HNHR

23 October 1245. Counted stores: Main tree: 893
Others: 78 } 971.

1983

4 January 1500. Counted stores: 1692. This group recently lost that tiny snag near the granary, loses ~100 holes in the process. I took a sample of 40 acorns from the fallen tree.

5 June 1415. Counted stores: 205.

1655. ♀ M/DB-WH / DB-WH/DB #785 foraging up near the fenceline by Hay-Blom (directly up the hill from 1800) and in the fallen tree.

11 July There are at least 5 birds from 1800 here near the mouth of the 2nd canyon over on Blanquist (time: 830). Identified were: ① ♀ DB-LP/LB #785, ② ♀ Red-42/ #787, and ③ ♂ LB LB/n #770. They're just here hawking and sitting around preening. They are near but not at the styrofoam granary here.

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Haystack-Blomquist Hastings Reservation

15 June 1240. Relieving Alan for the egg-tossing vigil (♀604 has laid).

1315-1323. A flurry of activity at the hole. Basically, ♀604 entered the hole and made it the focus of both ♂♂, each of whom sat at the lip several minutes and entered the hole 2-3 times for short periods. Finally ♀604 left followed immediately by ♂561, the last to have gone in. He left precipitously, so if (by some chance) the egg was tossed (which I doubt) he did it. No sign at all of ♀711.

1332-1342. More visits to the hole. First ♂562 was here in it by himself for several minutes, then after he left ♀604 returned and sat inside for several minutes again. Finally ♂561 went in, and a short time later ♀604 left again immediately followed by him.

1350. A careful visit by ♀711, unaccompanied. She went in and stayed for several minutes, eventually coming out with an AW rectrix in her bill - apparently cleaning the hole. But then she went back in, stayed again for several minutes, and left with nothing. Since noone else appeared to even be in the vicinity to intimidate her, I can only assume that either the egg is already gone or that egg-tossing is not currently in the cards.

1430. Checked the hole: the 1 egg is indeed still there.

1505. Relieved by Leslie. No further action.

17 June 415. Something was going on as I arrived, with 2 birds in the nesthole and the other 2 flying back and forth to the mouth of the hole and peering in. It was

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Haystack-Blomquist Hastings Reservation

(17 June) too dark to see very much (I couldn't see bands or crowns at all) but I can guess that the ♀♀ were in (one left after a bit, the 2nd stayed for several minutes) and the 2 ♂♂ were the ones hot on (♀604's) tail. Finally the last birds in the hole left; no eggs were ejected while I was watching.

425. The birds are still quite excited here. Someone flew to the hole several times while it was still too dark to tell who (s/he didn't go it) and now for the past several minutes there's been silent chasing going on in the tree next to me. Is this an intruder or mate-guarding or what?

435-450. Checked the hole. Both marked eggs are still intact.

530. ♀604 entered hole.

537. ♀left, followed closely by both ♂♂. ♀711 not seen at the hole during this time, although both ♂♂ were close to it constantly.

555. There are at least 2 intruders here getting chased.

605. Time to go make sure she laid a 3rd egg.

620. Still the same 2 eggs! She hasn't laid yet! A bird appeared in the tree just as I reached the hole - I hope she hasn't been irrevocably scared off from laying here today.

629. ~6 birds just flew into the granary!

640. ♀604 entered hole again. Several intruders are still in the vicinity.

648. ♀604 back at the hole briefly (I missed her exit).

655. A ♀ was in the hole for 3 min: I have no reason to doubt that she was ♀604 (she zipped right in, not like a bird visiting

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Haystack-Blomquist Hastings Reservation

(17 June) for the 1st time in 2 hrs) but unfortunately I can't be positive. Still no definite sign of ♀711 here, although there are still lots more than 4 birds flying around.

There was a visit by 1 ♂ to the lip of the hole while this ♀ was inside.

715. Time to go check the hole once again.

730. A 3rd egg has been laid: it was marked, and measured 25.0×20.7 mm Leaving. Leslie's here and may pick up any subsequent bizarre happenings, of which there would seem to be few probable.

18 June 438. Arrived. A ♀ is in the hole poking her head out regularly.

443. ♀ left. No ♂♂ visited or were in evidence while she was inside, so maybe she was ♀711?

452. Going to check the hole. The same 3 eggs are still there.

508. Back watching

541. ♀604 entered hole. 553. Left. Noone at all came to check her or the hole out while she was here - we must be coming very close to the last egg.

700. Noone's been around at all. Time to check the hole I guess.

711. No change in the nest contents. Back watching.

830. No interest or visits to the hole at all. I suppose the 3 eggs could be it, but if so they should start incubating. In any case, I'm leaving.

19 June 647. Arrived to watch for awhile. After I dry off a bit I'm going to check the hole.

~~705~~. Still same 3 eggs in hole. Watching.

825. Giving up. This hole is abandoned, as far as I can tell. However, I just checked around and noted some interest in a hole in the Valley Oak up above the granary on HNHR which I will look into later on.

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Haystack-Blomquist — Hastings Reservation

(19 June) 1300. Returned to open the hole up in the Valley Oak on HNHR where they showed interest this morning, finding a bit of lichen and 1 smallish scared-looking woodrat inside! I don't think they started a nest here!

22 June 930. The nest lives. A ♀ was in the hole when I arrived. I climbed up and checked, finding 4 eggs, warmed! I marked the 4th (the others were the same old 3) so it can be measured later. Apparently they haven't given up after all and are incubating!

28 October 1400. Counted stores: 1530.

~~October~~ 1983

8 January 1600. Counted stores: 2920. Everything is stuffed in this tree. I took a sample of 32 acorns from the granary.

5 June 1630. Counted stores: 1200. Still doing amazingly well.

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Lower Haystack — HNHR

28 October — 1430. Counted stores up here, where they are already quite loaded: Main tree: 3358; 2° tree: 296 } 3654. No doubt a conservative count!

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11 January — 1500. Counted stores: Main tree: 4409; 2° tree: 348 } 4757.

Also I took a sample of 50 acorns from low in the granaries.

25 February — Ambushed this morning so Susan could remove the breeding ♂ as our first group manipulation. She caught 5 of the 6 birds (all but ♂774), and ♂461 was removed as planned and put in the aviary.

1200. Now sitting up here in the hide in a fair rainstorm having just relieved Susan on the vigil waiting for a Power Struggle. Needless to say, nothing is going on as yet.

1230. A brief flurry of Wakas and Karrits from somewhere nearby. ♂770 now eating an acorn in the granary. All quiet. ♂770 just sitting.

1410. It's pouring rain (and has been for about an hour). No bird in his right mind would start a Power Struggle on a day like today. In any case, there is no discernable activity worth of note. I'm leaving.

1 March — 1340. Watched up here in the rain for a while, but eventually gave up. Not much happening in any case.

2 May — 533. Watching. 1♀ in hole; 2nd entered so both in for a bit right after I got here. Birds kept coming. ♀524 was inside

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Lower Haystack HNHR

(2 May) numerous times; I ~~was~~ only know ♀587 was inside briefly once but I had several birds zip in without giving me their bands so she may have been in more. Although I missed birds going in, I'm quite sure I saw everyone coming out, and no eggs were to be seen. I finally checked the hole at 725 and it was empty. Thus, unless I really blew it or everything happened before 530, nobody laid today. (♀587 had been laying).

735. Watching again.

755. There's been one additional brief trip into the nest by a ♀ but otherwise things are slow. One more nest check and I'm going home.

800. Still nothing. Leaving.

9 May 600. Nobody and nothing in nest hole. Also checked other holes but only Starlings. Now watching at 608.

630. Some interest - both ♀♀ were at the hole briefly and one (don't know which!) was inside for ~1 min.

718. ♀524 inside hole briefly (1 min).

721. ♀587 " " " (<1 min).

735. Everybody gone. Going to check the hole just to be sure.

5 June 1645. Counted stores: 1035 + 100 = 1135. Not too shabby.

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Blomore — Hastings Reservation

9 July 1630. Came over to band and bleed their 3 babies, who are now #830-832.

	① 830 (Yel-LB)	② 831 (DP)	③ 832 (DG-LP)
Wt WL	79.0 78	79.6 75	84.6 68
Rank by Crown	1	2	3

(all 3 were close, however).

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Blowtwo — Hastings Reservation

30 August 1645. Here at Blowtwo are several birds, including an ub ♀ and ♂ M/Red Yellow/Red #717. There were most likely 1 or 2 other birds in the area as well. They seemed to be flying off into the forest toward Gazebo.

1700. A ♀ (♀ wh/M) just flew into the granary with a green acorn (complete with cap and several leaves). There are at least 3 adults here.

1730. There are now at least 2 birds in the top part of the large canyon leading directly down to Corral Viejo (Dark Hollow). At one point a ♀ was looking out of a nice looking hole in a Valley Oak right by the gully.

16 September 825. Once again there's a bird in the Canyon leading down to Dark Hollow. Also, there was a banded ♂ at Blowtwo on my way out.

19 September 1105. This time there was a ♀ in the hole in the Gully Valley Oak again! She flushed before I got there and I didn't hear anything, so if they do have a nest at least the babies haven't hatched yet.

20 September 800. Noone in the hole in the canyon, but there were birds in the vicinity so I went up and opened the hole anyway just to be sure. There was nothing in it, but the hole's in pretty good shape and could be used soon at least.

27 September 1500. This time there was a ♀ in the hole and a 2nd bird nearby, so I opened the hole, but, amazingly enough, it's still empty...!?

29 September 900. A couple of birds are in the main area here.

30 September Ron suggests that the Canyon area contains 2 ub birds, almost

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Blomtwo Hastings Reservation

(30 September) certainly making it a different group from Blomtwo. So from here on see Canyon Vista notes for this area.

16 November 1600. ♀ looking out of the old nesthole here.

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Melanerpes formicivorus

Blomthree — Hastings Reservation

18 September — 1300. Saw ♀MU/MU #695 and jDG/M #823 (still ♂-type) this afternoon on the Magpie census. Turns out these are actually Dark Hollow birds, but they were certainly near Blomthree

1983

30 May — Flushed a bird from a nest with young babies in one of the opened holes.

1982
1983

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Corral Viejo Grande — Hastings Reservation

14 June 1430. Watching. At least 3 ♂♂ and 1 ♀ here, all hawking insects and obviously feeding young somewhere. 1 ♂ is banded: ♂ M LB/Blk-Wh ?#718; others not. (Bird could be Wh-Blk / on Rleg). (This bird turns out to be ♂718, banded and recently breeding at Blom 2, now apparently returned home.)

15 June There are definitely 5 adults in this group (I'm not sure what the sex of the 5th is.) I finally found their nest, up in a Valley Oak along the fenceline toward Gazebo. They are feeding youngish babies.

1530. Opened the nest: 5 healthy babies, not quite ready to band but close. I measured and marked them.

For nest hole characteristics, see back.

There are, by the way, plenty of stored acorns left here in the granary.

19 June 930. Banded and measured the 5 babies, who are now #808 to 812.

~~1600. ♂717 seen here~~

1983

21 March 1600. ♂Yel-Red/m #717 seen here. Also ♂DB-Wh(w)/Yel #836. And ♀Blk/Yel-Red #838.

Nest hole characteristics:

Species: Q. lobata, alive (nest limb alive also)
Granary: No
Hole height: 5.3m
Tree height: est 11.5m
Hole limb Diameter: 27cm
Tree DBH: 66 cm
Angle: -73°
Aspect: 84° E
Dist. to granary: 435'

Melanerpes formicivorus

Corral Viejo Grande Nest Record — Hastings Reservation

15 June 1530 — 5 babies

	#809 ① LP	#812 ② Blk	#810 ③ Y-LB	#808 ④ DP	⑤ -#811
15 June 1530	75.3 [41]	72.5 [45]	70.7 [39]	75.8 [40]	75.3 [38]
19 June 930	79.2 [63]	78.5 [66]	80.0 [61]	84.2 [64]	86.0 [60]
Crown rank →	1	2	4	5	3

Melanerpes formicivorus

Canyon Vista — Hastings Reservation

30 September — This group, apparently consisting of an ub pair, are in the canyon up above Dark Hollow on Blomquist. They've been working on a nice roost/nest hole but have no granary that we know of. Today at 835 a bird was in the tree with the hole. For prior information on this group (which has been around at least since late August) see Blomtwo notes.

19 October — 845. Today I flushed a pair of birds from the tree with the hole; the first (a ♀ I think) was indeed banded: Yel-Or-Yel Light. No noises are coming from the hole, however.

858. With a second look I find an ub ♀ here, so either there are 2 ♀♀ or the ♂ is the one who's banded. (Alternatively, this bird may be an intruder from Blomtwo, where she seems to have just flown off to.)

16 November — 1625. No wickers here in passing, but there is a Lewis' Woodpecker up in the tree!

23 November — 1015. Again, no wickers in the roost tree, although I do hear a couple up on the adjacent knoll.

1983 Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Dark Hollow HNHR

14 May 600. Watching. Noone in hole.

710. Leaving. No activity at presumed nest hole, but, birds were going into a different hole...

Melanerpes formicivorus

O.K. Corral — HNHR

11 January — Ambushed here this morning, catching 5 of the 6 birds who roosted in the hole. This total included 3 ♂♂ and 2 ♀♀, now #849-853. Most likely, 1 of the ♂♂ and 1 of the ♀♀ were adults, while the other 3 were probably first-year birds.

Note that Ron had thought he'd seen only 1 ♂ and 5 ♀♀ here, so there may be others even beyond the single bird I missed.

21 November — 0600. No storers here or sign of birds. Looks like yet another lost group.

1982
1983

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Gate — HNHR

1 November — 1000. Only counted 175 acorns here, almost all in the one broken limb where the old nesthole is. (Last year the dead limb with the 4+ holes in it fell, along with ~200 holes.)

1020. Watching. ① ♀ M/[redacted]-Lght #789.

1035. ② ♂ LP/DB #627. ③ ♂ M/DB-Wh(n) #626.

1045. ④ ♂ Red/Blk-Wh #790 (still ♂-type). ⑤ ♀ LB-Red/LB #685.

1115. Leaving.

1983

10 January — 1200. Counted stores: 1150. These birds are now at least in fair shape. Also took a sample of 25 acorns from the granary (all seemed to be Live Oak).

20 February — ♂790 intruding at R3. See R3 notes.

1 March — This group lost the hanging limb in yesterday's storm, along with a large proportion of their stores and their 1980 nest hole.

15 March — Susan and I ambushed this morning, nabbing all 8 birds from the '82 nest hole (!). The purpose was to remove ♀519, who was put in the aviary.

22 March — 1725. ♀ LB-Red/LB #685 eating an acorn quietly here; she's clearly given up the battle next door at Westgate.

See Susan's notes re ♀791, who was hurt in the Westgate power struggle and recouperated inside Susan's sweater.

6 June — 1615. Counted stores: 80. With the loss of the hanging limb this group has only ~200 or so natural holes remaining in their tree; most available holes are now limbs we've put back up.

1982
1983

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Westgate

29 September

1625. Watching.

1645. Now ♂ DBS+LB/ #692 in granary.

1655. Pretty slow down here. Leaving.

1700. Back again: ♂692 and ♂ La/La #58 sitting quietly in granary.

1713. ♂58 sallied out once and returned. A ♀ is here also, but at 1716 she zipped off into the forest.

1716. ♂692 and ♀ M/LB-Red #599 both returned with green live Oak acorns and are now eating them. ♂58 here also. Certainly no sign of a nest.

1720. Leaving.

Hastings Reservation

1640. Nobody here. Going to look around on foot.

1 November

1015. ♂58 seen when I was here counting stores: 282. Most of these are in the very high perch limb.

1983

10 January

1215. Counted stores: 1354. Not bad!

22 March

Susan and Ron ambushed this morning, successfully nabbing and removing ♀599. The morning was not good - it's raining but a Power Struggle did get started right away, and by 930 or so there were 10+ birds fighting away, including most or all of the Gate helpers. Currently (1100) things are still going, and all of us are out here watching, but the rain is making observations rather difficile.

1115. Now watching. ♂ Ret/m #790 (Gate) here. In the center along with ♂58 (apparently winning?) are ♀687 and ♀798 from ARF, TOO. A 4th bird (♀ub) there also.

1130. These 3 ♀♀ seem to be pretty well in control of the center of the tree —

Melanerpes formicivorus

Westgate HNHR

(22 March) 1130. 6692 (Weate) definitely doing a lot of fighting. But most intruders are ♀♀, except for the Gate helpers. At least 3 ub ♀♀ here.

1138. 658 in center with the 3 ♀♀. At least 12 birds involved now, including 4+ ub ♀♀. Gate birds still here, inc. ♀685. But she and the ub ♀♀ are definitely at the periphery of the tree (except for the 3rd ♀ with the 2 ARF, TDO birds.)

1615. Replacing Susan. The ARF, TDO birds have been outdone by a coalition of 5 (!) unbanded ♀♀! Am now watching. Weather is cool & windy but not raining now.

1620. The 5 (have only confirmed 4 so far) ♀♀ definitely have the Sycamore sewed up. But there are a few others still on the periphery. Otherwise there's little chasing in the Sycamore, but frantic activity as the birds fly around, congregate, and greet each other incessantly.

1625. There are indeed 7 birds here - presumably the 2♂♂ and 5♀♀.

1650. An intruder in the Sycamore was chased off by a veritable flock of birds! All 7 are still here.

1700. There's an ub ♂ and ♀ in the Valley Oaks by the Hallisey's Driveway, but no intruders in the central area, where the 7 are still at it. It's only these birds in the periphery who are giving occasional Carricks - essentially only a monoculture of Wakas is coming from the granary.

1715. There's still some chasing going on over at Gate.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Westgate HNHR

(22 March) 1720. Another intruder landed low in the tree but was chased off by 3 birds within 2 sec.

1729. Another intruder chased off by 4 bird pack.

1735. No vocalizations for over 1 min. now - a 1st for the day, I'm sure. Things are clearly slowing down for the evening.

1750. Leaving. There's no doubt that the 5 ♀♀ are solid. But what now? Surely all ♀ aren't going to stay and nest here! Should continue to be an interesting group to watch here.

6 June 1630. Counted stores: 275.

1982
1983

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Pipeline — Hastings Reservation

9 September — 1800. While passing by here I noted 3 birds, inc. one looking into the "hole" up in the top of the Sycamore "granary". I didn't check to see if any acorns were actually stored (it is still early) but finally, this could be it for Pipeline!

29 September — 1600. Watching from road. Noone in evidence here.

1620. I fear nothing is going on here. Rats.

22 October — There was a bird here in the granary just before dusk.

23 October — 1345. There are even a few stored acorns here! Watching.

1405. Well, things are slow nonetheless. Going to see how many acorns there are. The answer is: ~10. At least somebody's thinking about it.

1 November — 1120. They have 75 stored acorns here now. Saw ♂ DB-WH(n)/ here up in the granary. Success at last! (Ron has identified the group here.)

1983

10 January — 1230. Counted stores: 850. Just about everything here is filled, and the birds have even made a few holes of their own in the Sycamore. Not bad! I also took a sample of 25 acorns from a small limb up in the tree.

9 April — 1000. Bird in hole...

1730. Opened hole. Nothing yet.

10 April — 720. Watching. Noone in vicinity.

830. Nothing happening, at least at the granary

6 June — 1640. Climbed up and counted 550 acorns(!) They've made a lot of their own holes up there! Probably 250+!

1982
1983

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Road 1 — Hastings Reservation

3 September — While walking along the road this afternoon I came across 2 (!) roadkills from this group: ♂577 and j806 (just molting to a ♂). The former was fresh and not very near the latter, who was a day or 2 old. Bummer days for this group!

1 November — 1145. ♀269 seen here while counting stores:

Maintree: 1429 (this tree lost 1 large limb last year with at least 1000 holes)

Sycamore: 1053 (this tree has accumulated at least 1000 holes in the past couple of years)

Total: 2482

1983

10 January — 1330. Counted stores: Maintree: 3040; Sycamore: 2275 } 5315.

Took a sample of 50 acorns from the Main tree.

9 April — 745. Watching the nesthole (no known activity as yet).

830. Climbed up and checked: no eggs; the hole looks like it's still being worked on.

17 April — 615. Arrived. ♀ looking out of hole. Both ♀♀ there! One with distinct mustache (♀269) leaves ~620. Other (w/o mustache) stays another 5 min, heaving out a billfull of sawdust at one point. After both are gone, I check hole - empty, lots of sawdust in bottom, some of which I take out. Back watching at 638. Getting close!

810. Leaving. Noone ever returned. (A House Wren was inside the hole for a few minutes, however.)

20 April — 610. Watching nest - ♀ flushed from hole. (Ron had egg-tossing yesterday.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Road 1 HNHR

(20 April) 619. ♀383 enters. 632. ♂486 at hole for 4 sec.
644. ♀383 leaves. 657. ♀383 returns, enters.
703. ♀383 leaves. 706. ♂486 at hole briefly.
707. ♀269 at hole briefly. 708. ♂486 at hole briefly.
727. ♀383 enters. 735. ♀383 leaves.
755. We check hole: One egg: 24.4 × 20.8 mm (laid by ♀383)
808. Watching again.
848-851. ♀383 in hole again.
911-925. " " " "
948-951. " " " "

Ron came about 1000. In the end, the egg was tossed by ♀269 about 1100.

23 April 615. Watching hole. Noone inside.

645. ♀269 entered hole.
651. ♂486 at hole, leaves w/o entering
659. ♂486 goes inside
659 ♀383 enters. All 3 inside
700. ♂486 leaves
701. ♀383 looks out, goes back down
708. ♂486 at hole, leaves
709. ♀383 LO, goes BD (Back down)
710. ♀383 LO, leaves
712. ♂486 enters
714. ♀269 LO
715. goes BD
720. ♀269 LO, Leaves
720. ♂486 leaves
721. ♀383 enters
732. ♀269 At hole. Both here (♀383 LO)
733. ♀383 leaves
733. ♀269 enters
736. ♀269 LO, leaves
739. ♀383 enters
745. ♀383 LO, leaves
749. ♀383 enters
753. LO, leaves
800. Checked hole: 1 runt egg, no doubt laid by ♀269.
810. Back.
832. ♀269 enters
837. ♂486 at hole, enters

839. ♀ LO, leaves; followed by ♂
839. ♀383 enters
840. Leaves
855. ♀269 enters
904. Leaves

Ron, etc came. Denise took over.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Road 1 HNHR

(23 April) The upshot as of 900: ♀269 almost certainly laid the egg, as it was a runt, she had the most chance, etc. Both ♀♀ had good opportunities to toss it, but neither had as of 900 (♀383 had 4 good chances, ♀269 3). So maybe noone will bother, at least at the moment. Measurements of the egg were 20.5 × 16.7 mm (measured by Ron at 900). Things aren't over here yet.

! Denise reports that ♀269 tossed the egg at 1020!!

25 April 625. Watching. 1 egg (laid by ♀269 mir) still in hole.

647. ♀269 enters
704. LO
705. Back town
707. LO 709. BD.
718. ♂486 enters. ♀383 comes to hole. ♀269 LO
719. ♀383 leaves w/o entering.
♀269 Leaves.
♂486 leaves.
738. ♀383 in
757. ♀269 in
♀383 out
756. ♀269 out
800. Checked hole: 3 eggs. (1 from yesterday). It's all over.

New eggs marked 2 and 3. Leaving. ♀383 had her chance, but didn't take it.

6 June 1700. Counted stores: Maintrei: 760
Sycamore: 560
} 1320.

1982
1983

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

	Finch	HNHR
2 November	1445. Counted stores: Main tree: 682, Sycamore: 569 } 1251.	

1983

16 January	1100. Counted stores: Main tree: 1492, Sycamore: 1450 } 2942. + Misc limbs 240 = 3182	
	Took a sample of 36 acorns from the Sycamore.	
4 April	1500. Opened the new hole in the Sycamore that they'll probably nest in, but I couldn't get all the way to the bottom (it's deep already) and had to peep in to be (pretty) sure there's nothing yet.	
6 June	1715. Counted stores: Main tree: 15, Sycamore: 160 } ~175.	Getting down there!

Melanerpes formicivorus

Road 3 HNHR

2 November 1500. Counted stores: Sycamore: 201 } 247.
Valley Oak: 46 }

This is so suspiciously low that I'm going to sit and watch for a few minutes.

1530. Nothing going on. I guess they've just been busy and had other things on their minds.

1983

16 January 1200. Counted stores: Sycamore: 1520 } 2142
Valley Oak: 622 }

♀710 seen while I was counting.

Took a sample of 25 acorns from the Valley Oak.

20 February 905. Watching. Intruder: ♂ LP/LB or LP/Red-LB (seen well; only here for a second). I suppose this was actually ♂654 (not an intruder at all)

915. ① ♂ LP/M #654 w/ acorn. They appear to still be harvesting Live Oak acorns from nearby! Yes! Definitely Live Oaks.

920. ② ♀ WH/Red #710. These 2 birds are storing like crazy!
③ ♂ DB-W(u)/DB #794. ④ ♀ DB/LP-LB #265.

1018. A real intruder: ♂ Red/Blk-WH #790 from Gate

1045. No sign of ♂68 or ♂792 - only the above 4 birds, ♂654, ♀710, and ♀265 regularly, ♀794 only once briefly.

4 June 1100. Checked nest: 2 babies, both well but 1 distinctly larger than the other, and 2 unhatched/undeveloped eggs, both removed by me.

12 June 1100. They appear to be at least functionally out of acorns here: ♀ stores.

1982
1983

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

School Hill — Hastings Reservation

24 June — 1740. j M/wh-red #753 appeared down here at the water trough of the lower Barn looking a bit lost. He flew across the road to take refuge from the Magpies, then disappeared.

23 October — 1320. Counted stores: Main tree: 611; 2° tree: 27 } 638.

Not doing so well as yet.

1983

25 January — 1500. Counted stores: Main tree: 1396; 2° tree 153 } 1549

Also took a sample of 30 acorns from the main tree.

10 June — 925. Counted stores: Main tree: 450; 2° tree: 25 } 475.

1982
1983

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Black Oak — Hastings Reservation

20 June 1430. Braved the Poison Oak to check the 2nd nest here, which has 2 babies ~6-8 dys old (eyes not open yet, no feathers) along with 2 unhatched eggs (1 fertile, the other apparently not).

3 November 1515. ① ♀ yel/Blk-Red #713 here.

As expected, these birds are loaded with acorns, but I'm too tired to count them now.

11 November 1130. Did my best to count stores here:

Central area:
- Olf Black Oak Nest tree: 105
- VO granary: ~~1897~~ 1895
- Fallen Black Oak: ~1900*
- Side area: 914

} 4814.

These birds are clearly in good shape!

*This tree is rather older and has more furrows than previously and is now almost impossible to count with any precision, as many crevices are literally crammed with acorns. I counted 950 without climbing up it and suspect that doubling this is a reasonable estimate.

1983

11 February The birds have lost most of the Fallen Black Oak here, along with perhaps ~1300 holes (and acorns!).

1340. Counted stores:
- VO Granary: 1768
- Fallen Blk Oak: ~500*°
- Side area: 340+

} 2608

*Pretty much of a guess, but probably in the right vicinity.

+ They've also lost some limbs in the side area.

° Many of the fallen acorns are still accessible on the ground, and the group probably has access to an additional 600-900 acorns. I took a sample of 50 from the downed limb.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Black Oak Nest Record (2nd nest only) — Hastings Reservation

20 June 1450 — 2 babies and 2 eggs (1 egg addled (prob. infertile); other w/ fully formed embryo)

	① Or	② Red
20 June 1450	25.2[12]	28.4[13]

Melanerpes formicivorus

Black Oak HNHR

12 June 900. Counted stores: 655 main section + 60 fallen tree = 715.

9 October 750. Watching. I saw no acorns in the granaries, however, and all in all I wouldn't be surprised if this group has hit the dust, along with virtually everyone else in this bad acorn year.

905. Still no sign of woodpeckers anywhere on this territory. Doesn't look good.

18 October 1520. There are a few acorns stored here now - green and fresh. Hence, somebody is indeed here.

Melanerpes formicivorus

SOBO HNHR

9 October 910. Well, there birds and acorns down here at least: ① ♂ M / DB-Wh(n) / DB-Wh(n) / Red #736 in the granary. In fact, the granary (at least the part I can see) has lots of acorns in it. ♀ here, but missed her bands. The acorns I can identify are Golden Oaks.

940. ② ♂ Yel/DB #639. ③ ♀ M/LB-Blk #658. ④ ♀ LB/Light #739.

1010. A 3rd ♀ was nearby, but I think she was an unbanded intruder.

1015. Leaving. 4/5 at least still here.

1982
1983

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Arnold 1 — HNHR

3 November — 1215. Counted stores: Main tree: 4074; Next door: 25 } 4099.

These birds are doing well! There are several sets of holes in the granary which are new.

11 December — 925. ♀761 over intruding at Lambert.

1115. Now watching here. ① ♀ Yel/LB-Red #680. ② ♀761 back here working stores. ③ ♀ Wh-Mv/M #568.

1130. ④ ♂ M/Da-LP #826. ⑤ ♀ Wh/LP LP/LP #505. ⑥ ♂ Or/Dk-Or #827. ⑦ ♂ Yel-DB/Or #762. Now where are the breeding ♂♂?

1148. Here's one: ⑧ ♂ LB-Blk/M #679.

1210. I'm pretty sure ♂100's here also, but I'm having a hard time getting a sure look at him. Well, this is him. He looks rather ⑨ ♂ Yel-Red/Yel-Red #100 these days.

1230. Leaving.

1983

11 February — 1245. Counted stores, finding only 1175 (!) Part of this is because they've lost one of their better dead limbs along with perhaps 600 holes. The light is also not great. But it seems clear they've really gone through a lot of stores since November.

I took a sample of 25 acorns from the tree.

12 June — 1000. No stores remaining here: ○.

18 October — 1500. ① ♀ LP/LP #505 here plus a ♂.

1982
1983

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Keep Out — HNHR

3 November — 1300. Counted stores: 616. Not too shabby!

1983

11 February — 1000. Counted stores: 550. I wasn't able to get a sample, and I didn't see any birds hanging around.

11 March — 1125. ♀ Red/Red #567 seen up on the Knoll above the granary here

12 June — 950. No stores left here that I could find. However! They have a nest - with ≥2 babies just about ready to come out.

1982
1983

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lambert HNHR

3 November 1345. Counted stores: Lam. FT: 1046
VO Nest tree: 402 } 4162
VO HNHR: 616
Hast. FT: 2098 (!)

This group hasn't been in such healthy shape in years! I took a sample of 50 acorns from the Lambert Fallen Tree; see back for results.

11 December 915. Watching from hide primarily to try and get some pictures.

926. ♀ - possibly an intruder - here: ~~♂ DB/M~~ or ♀ DB-LB/M #761 from Arnold 1.

932. Two residents: ~~M/Red/Yel #800~~ and ♂ Dk/Wht-LG #777. and ♀ M/Red Red/Yel #775.

1020. ♂ LB-Or/LB-Or #624. ♂ ~~LG-DB/M~~ LG-DB/M #546. ♀ M/R-Y R-Y/R #720.

1050. Seems clear noone's going to come to where I can get pictures. Going to take another sample of 50 acorns, this time from the ~~Hastings~~ Lambert Fallen tree again. See back for the results.

1983

11 February 1030. Counted stores: Lam FT: 1074
VO Nest tree: 387 } 4002
VO HNHR: 535
Hast FT: 2006

Took a sample of 50 acorns from the Lambert tree: see back for results.

Still a lot of acorns here!

Acorns pulled 3 Nov. 1982

	OK	< ½ ID	> ½ ID	Total
Q. lobata	42	6	0	48
Q. agrifolia	1	0	0	1
Q. chrysolepis	1	0	0	1

Acorns pulled 11 Dec. 1982

	OK	< ½ ID	Aborted	Total
Q. lobata	37	11	1	49
Q. agrifolia	1	0	0	1

Acorns pulled 11 February 1983

	OK	< ½ ID	Total
Q. lobata	33	13	46
Q. agrifolia	3	1	4

4 live grubs (no weevils) + one small beetle found

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lambert HNHR

11 March Took a sample of 50 acorns from the Lamb FT. See back for the outcome.

12 June 1000. Counted stores: Nest tree Valley Oak: 22 } 142.
Hast FT: 120 }

Pretty slim pickings, considering.

Acorns taken 11 March 1983

	OK	< ½ ID	> ½ ID	Total	
agrifolia	5	4	0	9	
lobata	30	7	3	40	1 moth larva
douglasii	0	1	0	1	1 weevil larva
Total	35	12	3	50	

+4 other larvae, apparently all moths

1982
1983

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Fanny Arnold — Hastings Reservation

6 September — An ambush this morning at 2 holes netted 3 birds: j797 (molted to ♂) and 2 unbanded birds, now ♀834 and ♂835. Two other birds were in other individual holes, so there appear to still be 5 birds here, one of whom is still unfortunately unbanded.

3 November — 1400. Counted stores, which appear to all be in the cluster of 3 trees by the fenceline: 288. If they have any larger granary somewhere I'm not aware of it.

1983

11 February — 1100. Counted stores, coming up with 350. Pulled a sample of 10 just to have some idea what's going on here.

12 June — 945. Not more than a few acorn remnants left here: 0.

1982
1983

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Upper Arnold 2

HNHR

3 November 1445. Counted stores: "Main tree": 692
(2°) VO Next door: 1092 } 1784

This group has lost 2 or 3 good-sized limbs in the past year, but is clearly making a lot of new holes to replace the losses, particularly in the 2° tree, which is falling to pieces but still has lots of dead space in it.

1983

11 February 1130. Counted stores: Main tree: 1288
"2° Tree": 1234 } 2522

Took a sample of 40 acorns out of the "2°" tree.

12 June 940. Counted stores: Main tree: 298
2° tree: 795 } 1093.

18 October 1305. Watching from hide. There are acorns here.

1315. ≥2 birds over on the other side of South ravine.

1330. ① ♂ DB/M #123 over in dead tree toward A3. Moving blind.

1350. ② ♂ yel/worm #681. ③ ♀ wn-Da/M #780 eating an acorn.

1400. A ♀ just down the hill working on an acorn:
♀ LP-wn/LP ? (I think it was ♀ LP-wn/LP). ← maybe ♀632.

1420. In granary: ④ ♀ LG-LB/LG #916.

1445. Over across the ravine is a ♀ M/ either ♀778 or ♀914.

1455. Leaving. Birds storing lots of Golden Oak acorns!

1982
1983

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lower Arnold 2

HNHR

3 November 1500. Counted stores: Blue Oak: 291
Valley Oak: 141
Excess in BO*: ~500
} 932

*I investigated the outside Blue Oak fairly carefully and noted several caches of acorns stuffed into various crevices in the bark or in dead rotted cubbyholes. In essence, the render it impossible to do a decent count here, but there's no doubt that there are several hundred more acorns in the tree than can be counted from the ground. 500 is a guess; it's probably an underestimate but I doubt it's wildly conservative.

1983

11 February 1200. Counted stores: Blue Oak: 223
Valley Oak: 192
Other caches: ~200*
} 615

*There don't seem to be nearly as many acorns stuck in strange places up here now. 200 is probably a fair guess.

I also took a sample of 20 acorns from the Blue Oak.

11 March 1155-1355. A vocalization watch here for Susan.

12 June 930. Counted stores: 125. Very few others appear to be stuck in crevices, although there could be some.

1982
1983

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Bianca — Hastings Reservation

2 September 1900. Came up to watch roosting but neither saw nor heard anything. Is there really still a group here?

3 November 1500. Scrounging around, I managed to come up with !!! stored acorns here. Not too impressive; there are several unused areas around.

1983

11 February 1300. Up here to count stores. On the Knoll is ♂ DB/LB-Light apparently ♂732 - one of the babies at Saturn last spring. This does not look well for the (old) group here, however.

There are a few stores left here: about 30, but basically things appear fairly abandoned up here. Among other things, the large limb in the Black Oak with their last known roost hole has fallen. I would not be too surprised if this territory were currently unoccupied, except perhaps for some scouts (♂732) from across South Ravine.

11 March Ron assures me there are 2 birds here, and pointed out a modest granary down slightly on the saddle that I didn't know about. At this point it still has ~150 acorns in it, so they aren't out, at least.

12 June 900. There are a very few stored acorns left - ~10, but not really enough to save this group from being functionally out.

W.D. Koenig
1984 - 1985

Hastings Reservation
Melanerpes formicivorous

Melanerpes formicivorus

HNHR

4 April 1300. 2 birds - a ♂ and a ♀ - are up at the aviaries checking out the group there. The ♂ is: ♂ Red-DBlue/Wh ? M / I didn't get a good look at the ♀.

28 October 830. A pair of birds are hanging out and possibly storing acorns in the lower edge of the 2nd canyon. I saw a banded ♀ (♀ M/W-Blk ??) and I think the ♂ was banded too.

30 October 1510. No birds in the 2nd canyon this time and no stores in the granary. Looking at the list, I'd guess that the bird I saw on the 28th was ♀808 from Blomone.

Journal

HNHR Monterey Co. Calif.

7 April 1830. The Dipper is back along Finch Creek at the bridge.

1 May 945. Over Blompond are a whole flock (30+) of Cliff Swallows.

13 June It's time for me to note generally how good the spring is in terms of acorns: not only do all established groups on the Reservation have stored acorns remaining still (as far as I know) but in addition there are a fair number of Live Oaks that still have a few acorns on them, and at least a few with lots of acorns still on them. Presumably this is the extraordinary fact that has led to the founding of 3 new groups this spring (Plaque Annex, Horsetail, and Tom Arnold) in areas that have never had their own groups before and, more critically, in areas that do not have granaries of their own (Horsetail has the artificial limbs but isn't using them). Apparently these birds, all of which have at least attempted to nest (only Plaque Annex has been successful thus far, but Tom Arnold should fledge 2), are using, in part, acorns still "stored" in the Live Oaks.

In contrast, I'd have to guess that it's a fair to poor insect year, although the Yellow Pan traps will say for sure. Certainly the weather from mid April - end of May was largely cool.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Poison Oak Hill HNHR

28 April Found a nest on the side of POHill way up from MacFlat which is clearly POHill #1's nest. It has 4 eggs, which have been incubated.

25 May Banded the single baby left in the nest at POHill #1 as #1047. [Wt: 85.7 gm; WL: 67 mm].

7 July 900. Banded 3 very old babies up in one of the old holes in the main area at POHill #1. Measurements were as follows:

	#1128	1129	1130
wt(WL)	80.3(124)	74.6(113)	74.3(118)

They do have stored acorns up here still.

1984
1985

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Chongo HNHR

1 October Amazingly enough, this group (which we didn't even know existed again) has a nest in the '83 hole in the Blue Oak granary. Today I went up with Philip to check it: ① #981 ② R-LP #982

80.1 (65) 55.2 (44)

4 October 1645. Banded: 82.9 (83) 65.4 (58)

Philip caught both adults here on 3 October: They are now #979 & 980 (both were ambushed at the nest).

1985

30 January 1630. Counted stores: 471. Not bad, given the poor shape of the tree here. No birds seen in passing.

1 April 1700. Came out and set up a blind but it's all quiet - no sign of birds anywhere.

2 April 805. Watching.

815. The tape brought an nb ♂ and ♀ who were both soon chased out by ①♂ M/DA-Yel #979 and ②♀ Red-LB/M #980.

820. Both here again to chase out nb ♀.

835. Same 2 birds again. Looking as though neither of their babies made it (or else both dispersed - after all, it is April!).

840. The pair may have just copulated - the ♂ was above the ♀ flapping his wings for ~5s.

845. Leaving. These birds to have stores remaining.

21 April *Group Update ~~***~~

j981. Last seen 19 Jan '85, gone by 2 April; D.A. 28 Feb ± 1 Month (P. Hooge)

j982. Same as j981. Neither were sexed.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Chongo HNHR

27 April 1800. There was a bird in the main tree, but noone in any holes. I opened the fall hole, and it's in good shape (but empty); it seems likely they'll use it, but if it's not there soon it will be time to look seriously elsewhere.

29 April 1500. Still nothing in the hole in the main tree.

2 May 1410. Bird in hole in sycamore - the probable nest. Unfortunately, it will require a rope.

12 May 1500. Opened the hole in the sycamore, plus another hole just above it, plus the hole in the granary, but all were empty. It's possible they had a nest in the 1st hole and lost it, but in any case, we're now back to ground zero.

27 May 1800. Bird in hole in Blue Oak granary: 5 eggs!

30 May 1045. Still 5 eggs.

4 June Mark opened the hole and noted 4 very young babies; there might have been an egg there too

20 June 1530. 4 babies, but the last was so small compared to the others that I took him rather than band him. The other 3 were banded as #1109-1111.

There are quite a few acorns in the granary here.

~~1450~~ 24 September 1400. Put up a blind here. They have new acorns stored, plus at least some left over from last year.

7 September Stanback reports "some, not a lot of acorns" remaining here (possibly this was nearer the end of August)

Melanerpes formicivorus

Chongo Nest Record

27 May 1800 — 5 eggs, one looks fresh, others incubated — HNHR

30 May 1045 — Measured eggs
① 27.7 × 18.9
② 25.9 × 19.5
③ 26.0 × 19.3
④ 27.4 × 19.1
⑤ 27.3 × 19.7

4 June — 4 babies + ?

20 June 1530 — Banded the babies

	1109	1110	1111
20 June 1530	81.9 (72)	85.6 (71)	80.0 (65)

4th present, but removed: 43.0 (31) (not banded)

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Buckeye HNHR

4 October — 4 birds roosted in a hole in the granary tonight with an ambush set.

5 October — 930. However, only 2 stayed in - the 2 ♂♂. The other 2 came by early, however. Thus, there to appear to be 4 birds here.

Also, these birds have started storing.

18 November — Finally got the ♀ last night roosting in the Valley Oak up above the granary. She is now #987.

1985

2 April — 910. Watching. ①ad♀ - chased out! by ①♀ wh-or/Blk-or #
♂ here also: ②♂ sil-Blk/Red #665.

930. Same 2 birds came to tape 2nd time.

1005: ♂ M/DG BP(w) - or Blk-P(w) DA/LP #663 came to the tape alone with ♂665 & ♀.

This 3rd bird is definitely part of the group. It's the ♀, by the way, who comes 1st to the tape and drums in response to it. Also, just as at Chongo earlier and Blomthree yesterday, an intruder was drawn to the area, apparently by the tape. in response

1020. ♂ DA/LP gave alarm calls to a Cooper's Hawk that flew over. The ♀ was 1' away but did not call. Both hid on the underside of the limb.

Leaving. These 3 look like it. There are lots of stores here still.

21 April — ** Group Update **

♂252. Last seen 20 Jan, gone by 2 April; DA 25 Feb ± 1 mon.

♂663. This bird disappeared 20 June 1983 ± 6 weeks;

Melanerpes formicivorus

Buckeye HNHR

(21 April) he was not present in spring 1984. Philip saw no evidence of him 21 Sept 1984, but by 4 Oct. I saw 4 birds roosting here, 1 of whom I presume to ~~be~~ have been this bird. Hence: Rejoined group (returned) 1 October 1984

27 April 1700. Found and opened the nest here. They have 4 babies, the oldest of which still has closed eyes but the feather tracts are visible: I guess 7-8 days, which puts them with an Est. LED of ~ 9 April.

15 May 1530. This is it: 4 babies, banded #1000 - 1003.

① 1000	② 1001	③ 1002	④ 1003
80.7 (85)	80.7 (89)	91.2 (85)	83.9 (74)

Dev. sequence: crown Tied — 1st — Tied; a close 3rd; a more distant 4th

22 May 1830. Noone in any holes up here.

19 June 1715. Bird in the nesthole. Could be a 2nd nest.

20 June 1430. Checked the hole: nothing. yes!

25 June Mark S. saw bird in the hole.

~25 August A lot of acorns remain here (Stanback)

Melanerpes formicivorus

Plaque HNHR

6 March 1030. There was definitely a 2nd bird calling (karrit-cuts) from the Plaque tree this morning besides ♂521, who was calling like crazy as well from the 2° tree. Unfortunately I homed in on ♂521 and apparently missed seeing the 2nd bird altogether. Something may be up here, however.

10 September 630. Well, we blew it. We ambushed at 2 holes last night. (This morning). The string broke at the 1st one over by the barn. In the 2° tree, we caught ♂721, and 4 eggs! So - a fall nest. I returned the ♂, plugged up the hole, and kept him there until I got down, so we'll see what happens, but obviously we've got to be more careful, and check those other groups carefully!

13 September 1530. Noone in hole after 2 checks today; looks like the nest probably has been abandoned. However, the birds are active and maybe will renest? The area is loaded with acorns.

15 September 1700. A bird in the hole! Maybe they're OK! I climbed up and the 4 eggs are still there; 1 looks infertile but the other 3 look fine.

22 September 1630. Yes! 2 babies and 1 egg here; babies are several days old (~ day 5). Should band ~ 11 October.

23 September 530. A perfect ambush at the hole by the Upper Barn - however, nobody had roosted there! They apparently have another hole in this vicinity.

29 September Philip finally nabbed the ♀ at the nest along with ♂521. She is now #973.

7 October 1630. Banded the 2 babies as #983 & 984: They're fine!

Melanerpes formicivorus

Plaque Nest Record (Fall) HNHR

10 September 630 — 4 eggs. ♂721 ambushed at hole. Eggs not checked for stage of incubation.

15 September 1700 — Still 4 eggs, 1 not developing

22 September 1630 — 2 babies, 1 egg.

① 983 — ② 984

22 Sept. 1630. 28.8 — 18.6

7 Oct ~~1630 8.8~~ 9.0 (67) — 7½.4 (52)

Melanerpes formicivorus

Plague HNHR

6 December Caught j983 in an ambush in The nest hole, but everyone else appears to be roosting in some unknown hole somewhere.

1985

19 January 1130. Counted stores:

Plague tree:	1390
2° tree	122
Tel pole	370 (mostly in styrofoam block)
Barn	45
Total	1927

30 March 1630. Watching at Plaque. Saw ①♂521, ♂721, who mounted each other. ③♀-DB-Or/M #973. One of the babies: ④○ M/LG/WH + LG-Yel/LG-Yel #984.

1645. Saw another mounting between The 2 ♂♂.

31 March 930. ♂ M/Dk-?? DB-Yel(R)/WH #723 flycatching in The Sycamores by The bridge.

1 April 800. Big doings at Plaque - several intruders, but apparently ♀973 is still here so no vacancy. My observations (Philip & Missy here too):

810. ①♂723 chases off ♂ up by Cabin. 5+ birds in Plaque tree.

819. 2 or 3 intruders in main area; only ub ♀♀ seen so far. ②♀984 here. ③♂521. ④♂721 ⑤♀973. ● 983 here also but no PID on sex yet. Philip reports he's a ♂.

Philip has seen 2 ub ♀♀ here. I'd guess 2-3 birds intruding at most. But, with no vacancy and the whole group of 6 against them, I wouldn't give them much of a chance.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Plaque HMHR

29 April 1415. Found the nest here: 1 egg, marked #1. Unfortunately, it's not only up the canyon but in a new, difficult to get-at hole to boot! [No! Plaque Annex group!]

2 May 1430. Checked the hole: 4 eggs, as expected. A bird flushed, so they may be incubating. [→Note: this is the Plaque Annex nest]

12 May 1400. Checked the hole: The babies are hatching! 3 are out and the 4th is pipping (it may or may not make it). This means they had an incubation time of 10 days! (actually no, assuming the remaining egg was the last laid).

15 May 1600. Babies are squeeching up there -

20 May !! Important note!! Philip reports a nest with 5 babies in the Valley Oak by the Upper Barn - about 8 do or so!! My heavens - this means we have no idea whose nest is up the canyon!

21 May Injected the 4 babies at the "mystery nest" for DLW. This "group," which consists of ♂723 & ♂983 from Plaque along with an unknown but banded ♀, will be known as The Plaque Annex

Group Update

♂♂723, 983. At Plaque still at the beginning of April (4 April), but apparently budded off soon thereafter to "Plaque Annex": Moved 10 April ± 1 week.

29 May 1000. Banded the 5 babies at Plaque nest (in tree near upper Barn) as #1067 ~~1065~~. - 1071:

(1067)	(1068)	(1069)	(1070)	(1071)
80.1 (79)	77.8 (74)	79.8 (73)	74.2 (71)	72.2 (66)

20 June Philip reports 5 eggs in a 2nd nest here (in 2° tree).

Melanerpes formicivorus

Plaque HNHR

1 July Philip reports 2 babies + 2 unhatched eggs here today. One baby is 22.5g, the other 13g.

10 July Missy watched here today after which I added a single baby from Forsaken Ridge.

7 December Ambushed this evening in the old Nuttall's Woodpecker hole in the sycamore right by the footbridge, hoping to get the ub ♂ that is hanging out here (somewhat inexplicably, to my mind). Instead, it was 0721 roosting by himself in there (it's a small hole). I held him overnight and released him the next day.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Plaque Annex HNHR

27 May We have an official group here, founded ~10 April (a guess), consisting of ♂723 and ♂983 from Plaque plus ♀818, formerly of 1500.

28 May Stanback watched 800-1100, after which I transferred 2 of the babies to 1800

29 May Stanback watched 745-1045, after which I returned the 2 babies from 1800.

31 May Today, with 6 babies here, the weather was cool, overcast, with some slight drizzle ~~in the am~~ up to ~900.

1 June Last day of the watches. Weather was still cool but clear, at least. Afterwards I measured and banded the babies as ~~#1078-1082~~ ~~1083-1086~~ #1088-1091.

24 September 945. Up at Plaque Annex while I was passing by was a ♀: ♀MV-WH / MV-WH, possibly ♀984 from Plaque?

Katy reports that these birds are down at Plaque, mingling freely. See her notes for 9/23.

Group Update

As of the end of the year, ~~three~~ four birds have returned to Plaque permanently while the others have disappeared (♂983 later disappeared)

♂723, ♂~~983~~, j1089, j1090 abandoned and returned (or moved) to Plaque shortly after the young fledged in June.

Both ♂723 & ♂983 fed at Plaque's 2nd nest in Mid-July → all Abandoned (SA) 20 June ± 1 wk.

♀818. Abandoned too, seen at 1500 once on 7 July (Missy).

j1091, 1092. Neither seen after banding.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Annex
Plaque Nest Record

HNHR

29 April 1420 — New hole up canyon found. 1 egg, fresh, marked #1

2 May 1430 — 4 eggs; #1 + 3 (marked 2,3,4)

0 — 12 May ~~1430~~ 1400 — 3 babies, just hatched, plus 1 egg, pipping

8 — 20 May — This apparently is not Plaque's nest! See Plaque notes for 20 May.

		1089 (1) LPink	1090 (2) Daren	1091 (3) Mauve	1092 (4) LBlue
Injected w/ DLW 9	21 May 1850	54.00	48.90	51.65	45.50
	DLW injection →	150µl Possibly small spot on breast...?	150µl Good	150µl Good	120µl Good
	1900 wt.	54.05	49.00	51.75	45.60
		33A	34A	35A	36A
	Blood sample Taken	1900	1903	1907	1910
Day 10	22 May 1855	59.40	52.05	58.35	48.25
		33B	34B	35B	36B
		1857	1900	1903	1906

16 — 28 May 1110 — 71.90 — 68.25 — 76.75 — 68.55

Removed to 1800

17 — 29 May 1115 — {75.3}[63] — {71.8}[56] — (80.7)[59] — (75.4)[46]

(Returned from 1800) (Returned from 1800)

Added from 1800: LBlue, White

18 — 30 May 1200 — (72.7)[69], — (71.4)[62], — (80.5)[65], — (78.4)[53], — (82.8)[65], (84.0)[59]

These 4 were here

19 — 31 May 1105 — 73.4 (75) — 71.0 (68) — 81.3 (71) — 72.9 (59) — 75.8 (69) — 80.0 (67)

1089 — 1090 — 1091 — 1092 — Removed back to 1800

20 — 1 June 1110 — 73.5 (77) — 73.7 (70) — 79.1 (75) — 72.7 (65)

1089 ~~1058~~ 902-42810 / Black
DBlue-Wht / Wht-DBlue

1090 ~~1281~~ Yellow-Orange / 902-42811
DGreen-Yellow / DGreen

1091 ~~1092~~ Orange / Mauve
902-42812 / WGreen-DBlue

1092 ~~1051~~ White / Yellow-White
Red / 902-42813

2nd nest: See Philip's notes

	① Or	②	③ White Added (58.7)
10 July 1045	61.2 g	38.9 g	
11 July 1045	64.0	42.0	52.5 (Removed)

Melanerpes formicivorus

Moonshine Ranch HNHR

25 May The beginning of a new "era" as Stanback found the nest here. Unfortunately, as I climbed up apparently 1 of the babies flew out - but there were still 6 others in the hole!! (Mark has seen ≥ 5 birds here - none banded so far). Hence, they probably had 7 babies here (it's possible the ~~kids from~~ escapee was an adult, but the vote is that it was a baby.) We banded them as #1048 - 1053.

#	Weight	WL
1048	68.2	(108)
1049	74.2	(113)
1050	73.2	(113)
1051	65.2	(84)
1052	76.5	(106)
1053	77.8	(112)

D. Blue-white (W) / Yellow
Black - Red / 90223777
no black forehead band
yes tail spots

1984
1985

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Y — HNHR

11 September — 1100. Yes, Y has a nest also, in the spring hole in the large Sycamore down from the Y. They have 3 babies, much older than the others so far:

① Mauve	② DP	③
48.3 (24)	64.0 (28)	54.9 (31)

~Day 12 band 23 Sept.

This is nest #4 for the fall / Thus far!

23 September — 1400. Banded the 3 babies:

#969: 72.6 (86 — #970: 81.1 (92) — #971: 79.5 (89)

18 October — 950. ♂ Wh-DB/M #754 in front of the barn. A baby here also. Two babies here: 1 is ① DB-wh/Lt ♂ #_____. ③ ♀ LB-wh/Lt #675 seen also. And ④ ♂ Red-DB #669.

27 October — 1100. j971 seen up in front of the barn along with an adult ♂.
1650. j970 " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "

30 October — 1515. j971 in front of L barn.

8 December — The locust granary in front of the L Barn is fading fast. It will probably still be useable this year but not much longer.

1985

30 March — 1730. Saw all 3 breeders while showing Missy & Ues around: ♂669, ♂754, and ♀675.

31 March — 1000. Several birds in the Y tel pole: ♂669, ♀675, 2nd ♂, probably ♂754 (but not seen well). Some mounting seen among these 3. Back in front of the L Barn: ♂ Blk-Org/Blk #970.

Y still has acorns in the trees!

1020. ♂754 (probably) flew to the small Live Oak by the Tel. pole and got an acorn! Then stored it in the locust in back of the barn (with the nestbox on it).

Melanerpes formicivorus

Y HNHR

1 April 1800. Quick stop here: ① ♂ Red-DB/Wh #669; ② ♀ M / Light-DB ? thought it was #971 but I'm not sure now; ③ ♀ Grn-Wh/M #675.
1815. Leaving.

13 April 1600. Checked all the known holes here.

21 April ** Group Update ***
j969. Last seen 26 Jan by Philip (unsexed); gone by 30 March; DA 28 Feb. ± 1 month.

24 April 1530. Slipped it in on us: a new hole way up in the sycamore just below (6") the old Magpie nest. 5 babies ~2 do + 1 egg, pipped but probably defunkt.

6 May 1420. Did. DLW on the babies...

8 May Philip ambushed this morning at the School Hill hole. The helper ♀ got out, but he caught ♀675 and ♂754. We injected both of them with DLW, glued transmitters to them (The ♀ got a 2gm one: 1/10/4.5; The ♂ a 4gm one: 3/2/2.5) and released them at 700.

We are now going to do time-activity budgets on the ♀ for most of the day, and will try to catch her tomorrow morning (along with the ♂).

This of course means that ♂669 spent the night in the nest.

9 May 800. Watching from a blind with a trap set up at the hole.
830. Got the ♀!!! A bonefide sample of 1 for DLW!
840. Back for awhile, just in case we can bag the ♂ too.
945. Giving up for now. Only ♂669 fed (about 25 times!)
This afternoon, Wes came down and saw the ♀ feeding again, so they should be set for tomorrow.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Y Nest Record

24 April 1530 — HNHR

5 babies ~2 do + 1 egg, pipped but apparently going nowhere.

6 May — 4 babies, injected for DLW

17 May 1900 — 4 babies, banded

DBlue ① 1012	② 1013	③ 1014	④ 1015
100.2 (82)	89.5 (80)	86.4 (64)	88.0 (63)
(DBlue)	(Black)	(LBlue)	(Yellow)

Melanerpes formicivorus

	Y	HNHR
10 May	800. Now going for the ♂ again. Got him! 2/2 for DLW! A coup! [This was ♂ 754 who I caught feeding. The ♀ was still feeding again.]	
17 May	1900. Banded the 4 babies as #1012-1015.	
20 June	900. ♀675 in front of lower barn; she still has the transmitter on!	
1 July	Philip reports 4 babies here ~ 7-8 do.	
15 October	Katy reports a power struggle here with numerous nb ♀♀ and the apparent absence of ♀675.	

1985 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Second Canyon HNHR

28 September 1000. A bird was in the "granary" here as we were walking back from Blomquist.

1984
1985

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

1500 HNHR

20 March 1430. A bird here, high in a tree at the lane, Karst cutting. Yet another possible reoccupation!

10 September 745. ♀ $^{LB/Yel}_{M}$ #601 seen here. Noone in any of the holes I know of.

1985

20 January 1300. Counted stores: Main tree: 1908 } 2408
2° tree: 550 }

21 April **Group Update***
♀685. Last seen (Philip) 27 Jan, gone by 12 April, DA → 3 March ± 1 month

12 May In between here, Philip recorded a clutch of 4 in the main tree which was abandoned prior to hatching, after which the eggs eventually disappeared. Today I found the ♀ in the low hole in the 2° tree where she has 4 eggs which are not fresh.

3 June Tried to net in front of the hole with no luck this morning.

4 June Got 0297 this afternoon in the net for DLW.

6 June Got him! At the nest.

12 June Philip banded the babies (3) as ± 1099-1101

21 August Mark Stanback reports that "some, not a lot of acorns" remain here.

Melanerpes formicivorus

1500 Nest Record — HNHR

23 April — 4 eggs (Philip)

Nest abandoned. Eggs gone

12 May 1250 — New hole: 4 eggs, incubated

① 24.6 × 19.5

② 25.9 × 19.5

③ 25.6 × 19.8

④ 25.6 × 19.7

12 June 930 — Philip banded the 3 babies as #1099-1101

1985 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

1800 HNHR

20 January 1330. Counted stores: Main tree: 2000. Acorns everywhere they can go here!
2° tree 120. The dead limb used for the 1st time in many years, as far as I know.
Total 2120

3 April 710. Watching after an ambush at the '84 nest hole this morning netting ♂770, ♂774, and ♀787. I still have all 3 in captivity - the ♀ for a transmitter later on and the 2 ♂♂ for my removal experiment. ♂774 is currently in the aviary, while I have ♂770 here with me until I confirm the presense of the 3rd breeding ♂ (♂771).

725. So far all quiet. Oops - a bird was here briefly, then flew off up Haystack Hill.

815. 3 birds showed up: 1♂ and ♀LB-WR/LB #785 and ♀LP/M #793. Still pretty quiet.

845. The 3 birds (plus an intruder?) Here he is: ♂M/am-wh #771. So he's here for sure.

The plan is: ♂774. Hold until eggs are laid - maybe until young hatch.

♂770. Hold for 2 days. Release 5April.

♀787. Tag and release this afternoon.

850. Leaving. All looks good!

Collar on ♀787 3-4-2

1430. Put a radio on ♀787: "702", but really Channal 3, band 4, frequency 2.

5April Let ♂770 go at 720. This evening Missy reports someone having been beaten up a lot starting at ~730, so I better check up what's going on tomorrow.

Melanerpes formicivorus

1800 HNHR

7 April Today I finally get the news that the ♂♂ here are not fathers of ♀787 and thus she is not a "regular" helper (at best) and is a potential breeder (at worst). Hence we clearly can't use her as an indication of the movements of helpers!

15 April Missy saw lots of activity at the hole here her, so I checked it at 630: 1 runt egg!

645. Watching.

830. ♀193 at hole but didn't enter.

920. ♀193 again, but still wouldn't enter.

929. Did it! Tossed by ♀193! (Did not drop it - flew out of the hole with it).

16 April Philip watched here this morning. ♀193 was in early for ~45 min, and ♀785 was in later for ~15 min. By the time I came by - 730'ish, there were 2 eggs - thus both ♀♀ laid. One egg was distinctly smaller than the other, but not obviously a runt; I marked both. Philip continued to watch but left at 950 after both ♀193 and ♀785 had entered several times and ♀787 once without tossing. Nobody watched until Philip returned at ~1530 when only 1 egg - the larger one - remained.

So it's still something of a mystery here, but at least 2 of the ♀♀ are laying. My guess is that ♀787 tossed the egg, and may very well toss the second by the time we check it early tomorrow, but we'll see!

17 April 1030. Watching. So far today: (1) the larger of the 2 eggs laid yesterday was still in the hole (2) ♀193 laid an egg early once

Melanerpes formicivorus

1800 Nest Record		HNHR
15 April	630	1 runt egg; marked #1 → Tossed by ♀193.
	929	2 eggs laid in AM by ♀193 and ♀785; don't know who laid what. 1 tossed by 1500 → The Small one. Remaining egg: #1 22.6×18.5
16 April		
17 April		♀193 laid: 23.6×19.1, marked #2 ♀785 laid: Small egg. ♀193 tossed ♀785's egg! Eggs #1 and 2 remain.
18 April	600	Nest empty! ♀193 & ♀785 lay (don't know whose egg is whose): ① 24.0×19.3 ② 24.9×19.9
19 April	730	4 eggs; 2 new from ♀193 & ♀785 ③ 24.9×19.7 ④ 23.9×18.9
20 April	715	Nest empty!
22 April	900	1 egg: 25.1×19.9. Either ♀785's or ♀787's. → Tossed by ♀787
23 April	730	1 egg (runt): 17.6×13.7 (laid by 787) → Tossed by ♀193
	840	
24 April	710	1 egg: 22.7×17.8 (laid by ♀787) → Tossed by ♀193
	836	
25 April	(Philip)	1 egg: 24.6×17.8 (either ♀785 or ♀787) → Tossed by ♀193

26 April (Philip)

♀787 lays 24.5×18.8
♀193 lays 18.1×15.5 (runt)
Both tossed by ♀785

27 April
♀193 lays ① 22.2×18.6. Not to

28 April
♀785, ♀787 lay:
② 24.2×18.6 (787
③ 25.6×20.1 (785

Gone 6 May

29 April
Either ♀785 or ♀193 (prob. former):
#④ 24.4×20.0

830-855
Not developing → Egg #5 (most likely ♀787): 24.2×18.5
egg 1 has dent, prob. from me.

30 April
Egg #6 ~~(most likely ♀785)~~ ~~♀193~~ (could be)
23.9×18.9 (♀193's) For sure

Gone 6 May
Egg #7: 24.3×19.5 (♀785's) For sure
Egg #8: 24.0×18.1 (♀193's)

1 May 640
2 May
~~No~~ 6 May
No eggs laid; birds incubating

11 May 1950
6 eggs! #2 & #6 gone!
Hatching

(♀193s) ① Pipping
② (Gone 6 May)
both ♀785s { ③ } Hatched. Marked w/ Yellow White-a
④ }
⑤ Did not develope
⑥ (Gone 6 May)
785's → ⑦ Will hatch
⑧ Did not develope

12 May 1230
4 babies

(con't)

~

Melanerpes formicivorus

1800 Nest Record - p.2

Day			1093 ① Orange ~~Yel Rleg, Back~~	② LBlue 1094 ~~Yel Wings, back~~ (from eggs 3 & 4 ← all ← 785's)	③ White RedBack ~~Wh-Legs, back~~ (clearly (from size) from egg 7) (1095)	④ Green back (clearly (from size relative to 3) from egg 1 (193)) HNHR
0	12 May	1230	8.80	7.15	4.80	2.85
1	13 May	1730	12.15	11.80	8.65	gone
3	15 May	1045	19.60	18.05	15.10	—
5	17 May	1630	29.75	30.85	25.90	-
		1730	29.85	31.05	26.00	
	DLW		.090 μl some on breast after injection (sloppy)	.090 very tiny bit on breast (pretty good)	.080 μl good	Used 0.1 μl needle for ①, 1.0 μl for other 2.
			30A	31A	32A	
	Blood sample taken		~~1735~~ 1735	1740	1745	
6.	18 May	1735	32.80	34.10	28.55	
			30B	31B	32B	
[B]	Blood sample taken		1740	1745	1750	
7	19 May	1745	39.00	38.40	31.70	
			30C	31C	32C	
	Blood sample taken		1750	1755	1800	

						Added from (Day) (LP) Plaque Annex	
Control Day #1	16	28 May	1150	79.30	77.60	77.50	(71.90) (68.25)
Exp day 2 (+2)	17	29 May	1100	80.9 (60)	77.0 (58)	80.8 (52)	75.3 (63) 71.8 (56)
CD #3	18	30 May	1115	81.8 (65)	82.8 (65) Removed to Plaque Annex	84.0 (59)	Returned to Plaque Annex
ED #4 (-2)	19	31 May	1145	84.1 (71) (1093)	(75.8) [69] Returned from Plaque Annex (1094)	(80.0) [67] (1095)	
CD #5	20	1 June		88.0 (76)	81.7 (74)	85.1 (71)	

See Stanback's notes for 2nd nest

Melanerpes formicivorus

1800 HNHR

(17 April) again: marked ♀ by Philip. (3) ♀785 laid a small - not obviously runt egg - later on, marked #3. (4) ♀193 tossed egg #3! Philip left at 1000; when I came at 1020 both the larger eggs from yesterday and today were still present, and I finally measured them. ♀787 has not been to the hole today.

This is all bizarre but the story appears to be clearing, based on a combination of hard and soft information: to wit:

("Soft" info) { ♀193 lays very early (>630 am)
{ ♀785 lays later; ♀787 doesn't seem to be doing anything.

Hence: 15 April: ♀193 lays runt egg early, tosses it herself (tossing observed)

16 April: ♀193 lays normal egg early, ♀785 lays small (but ~~not~~ only marginally a runt at best) egg later. ♀193 tosses ♀785's egg.
[None of these events observed directly other than that ♀193 & ♀785 laid]

17 April: Same as 16 April, only it was all seen this time. ♀193 laid normal egg early, ♀785 a small egg later, ♀193 tossed ♀785's egg.

Interesting group! All this suggests some degree of egg recognition on ♀193's part! Which could be a first!

1128. ♀785 entered hole. ♀193 and ♂771 came to hole, watching with great interest. Eventually (~1132) ♀785 left, no tossing.
1135. ♂770 entered hole, followed by ♀193. Both in for ~5 min. ♀ left, then ♂770, no tossing.

Looks like no more tossing today by ♀193 or ♀785; if an egg disappears by tomorrow it's ♀787's doing!

Melanerpes formicivorus

1800 HNHR

(17 April) 1200. With That I Think I'll leave. It's clear The 2 eggs are here for good unless ~~#18~~ ♀787 comes by, so if they disappear I'm confident of knowing what happened.

Note that both ♂770 and ♂771 are here and showing interest in The hole.

18 April 550. Bird in hole: checking. Nest empty!!

608. Watching.

645 ♀ in hole. Too wet to see bands for sure. [but no transmitter]

656. 2nd ♀ in hole. ♂771 here looking in, ♂770 here briefly.

658. 1♀ leaves. ♂771 still here.

704. ♀193 comes → hence, ♀785 is in hole. ♀193 enters again, but 1 ♀ leaves after a few minutes. Since ♂771 stays, I assume ♀785 is still inside.

712. ♂771 enters. 725. ♀[785] leaves followed by ♂771. events (1)

730. Checking hole. 2 new eggs, both normal-sized, marked #1 & 2

740. Watching.

852. ♀193 in hole for 8 min; no tossing. No ♂♂ came to hole while she was inside.

915. Missy taking over. Going to keep watching for awhile today.

1220. Back to relieve Missy. 1st checked nest and measured The eggs.

1310. ♀193 in hole ~20 min. Finally ♂770 joined her; she then flew out followed by The ♂. No tossing.

1345. ♂770 entered hole for ~5 min. ♀193 came once and looked in.

1415. Missy taking over again. Nothing by dusk

19 April 535. Watching. There has been time for someone to toss this morning.

645. ♀193 enters, followed (~653) by ♂770.

702. ♀785 in followed by ♂771. All 4 in now!

Melanerpes formicivorus

1800 HMJHR

(19 April) 707. 3 of 4 leave; 1♀ remains. ♂771 at hole - must be ♀785 still in.

737. ♀785, ♂771 finally leave.

740. Checked hole: 4 eggs (2 from yesterday, 2 new).

800. Watching.

820. Leaving. Seems unlikely anything further will happen unless ♀787 gets busy all of a sudden.

20 April 605. Watching. A shell fragment underneath the nest almost prompts me to go up, but I'll wait until someone lays.

700. ♀193 in hole for only 1 min. Oops. Must be wrong. ♂770 in now; ♀193 must still be inside.

715. [♀193 left]. Checked nest: empty! Fooled again!! That egg fragment probably meant something after all!

830. ♀785 in for a minute; ♂771 then inside for 3 min.

836. ♀787 here, but not at the nesthole.

900. Going to check the hole before leaving.

21 April 610. Watching from good blind.

745. ♀193 in hole for 10 min, but was looking out for most of it.

830. Only sporatic activity at the hole. Going to check it.

~~**~~ Hole still empty.

Group Update*

j946, 947, 948. ~~Last seen~~ None of these were seen after banding on 7 July ~~1985~~ 1984. Hence → all NSAB.

22 April 630. Watching; light rain.

800. ♀787 enters hole!

802. Alarm call! ♀193 enters followed by ♂770.

803. Now ♀785 enters followed by ♂771. All 5 inside!

Melanerpes formicivorus

1800 HNHR

(22 April) 811.0771 leaves. 0770 looking out. All 3 ♀♀ still in, I think.

830. All finally left. ♀193 left 1st, staying next to the hole (outside) until ~828.

845. 2 quick trips by ♀♀ between 830-840; no tossing. Going to check the hole.

900. 1 egg! [Not laid by ♀193, but could have been either of the other two.] Now for the inevitable toss-

915. Missy took over → ♀787 tossed and ate the egg!! This means that ♀787 almost certainly laid it.

An interesting group! The lineup so far is:

	♀193	♀785	♀787	Total eggs	In nest at end of day [for inferred events]
15 April	[Laid runt egg] Tossed by 193			1	0
16 April	Laid	Laid [Tossed, pres. by ♀193]		3	1
17 April	Laid	Laid → Tossed by ♀193		5	~~1~~ 0
~~18 April~~	[Both tossed, don't know by whom but ♀787 inferred]				
18 April	Laid	Laid		7	2
19 April	Laid	Laid		9	0
	All 4 tossed	by 4/20, [♀787 inferred]			
22 April		Laid → Tossed		10	0
Total eggs 50 far	5 (4 normal)	5	0		
Eggs tossed	[3] ← 2 seen	0	[7] ← 1 seen		

Melanerpes formicivorus

1800 HNHR

23 April 620. Watching. Noone in hole.

706. ♀787 in hole briefly.

710. ♀787 in again.

722. ♀ leaves. Hole check: 1 runt egg! She did it!

733. Watching.

840. ♀785 went in briefly; just after she left ♀193 went in. At that point ♀787 came to the hole, and was at the side of the hole as ♀193 tossed the runt egg. ♀787 then entered the hole. So! Today's activity: ♀787 laid a runt, tossed by ♀193.

The "guarding" relationships here, as based on activity at the hole, are: ♀193 ← ♂770

♀785 ← ♂771

♀787 ← Noone

That should be it for the day. ♀193 & ♀785 still not laying again. (I will check the hole before leaving to be certain.)

24 April 635. Watching. Noone in hole, apparently.

652. ♀787 in, followed by ♀193; latter left after < 1 min.

659. ♀787 left. Nest check: 1 normal egg (laid by ♀787).

710. Watching.

834. ♀787 entered, followed by ♀193; ♀ left - almost certainly ♀787, followed immediately by the egg-toss by ♀193.

So: once again for egg #12: ♀787 laid, ♀193 tossed.

25-26 April Philip watched. On Th 25th, both ♀785 and ♀787 were in but only 1 egg was laid; Philip guesses by ♀787. It was tossed by ♀193; both ♀193 and ♂771 ate it. On Th 26th ♀787 laid, followed by ♀193; both these eggs were tossed by ♀785.

↑ (laid a runt)

Melamerpes formicivorus

1800 HNHR

27 April 630. ♀ in hole; ♂770 comes to lip. (Hence, ♀ inside already is ♀193.)
646. ♀(193), followed by ♂770, leaves.
650. Hole check: 1 egg. 22.2 × 18.6. (laid by ♀193).
657. ♀787 at hole right away but left w/o entering.
712. ♀193 in, 714 left w/o tossing.
750. ♀193 in again, left " " .
830. ♀785 in for 1 min, left w/o tossing. ♀193 went in immediately after, left w/o tossing, of course.
945. Nest check: still the 1 egg.
1015. ♀785 in hole for ~ 5 min (with ♂771 at lip); no tossing (she laid maybe?) ♀193 went in afterwards for 1 min, no tossing.
1045. Hole check: still the 1 egg.
1123. ♀785, followed by ♀193, ♂770, ♂771. All then left shortly; no tossing unless ♀785 slipped it in as she exited behind 1 of the ♂♂.
1133. ♀785 in again, but didn't toss (also ♂771).
1135. Missy takes over
1335. Back again. All birds have been in, inc. ♀787 (for 15 min!) but no tossing! So what's up here?
1405. ♀785 in again w/ plenty of time, but no toss.
1500. By now ♀193 has been in several more times. I'm quitting: will go get my climbing gear and check the nest.
1515. As expected, Only the egg is still there. Leaving: it would appear that it's not getting tossed, at least today.

28 April 630. Noone in hole: nest check: still the 1 egg.
638. Watching
644. ♀785, then ♀193 in. 648. 1♀ (♀193 methinks) leaves. ♂771 still at hole (hence ♀785 inside).

Melanerpes formicivorus

1800 HNHR

(28 April) 700. ♀787 in. This could be it! ← no ♂ guarding hen

707. ♀(785), followed by ♂, left. Other ♀ looking out. [If 1 ♀ didn't lay, it was probably ♀193.]

725. Last ♀ out [♀787]; ♀193 in briefly (with ♂770), left w/o tossing.

730. Nest check. 3 eggs: #1 (from yesterday) plus ② 24.2×18.6 and ③ 25.6×20.1. The guess that these are ♀785's & ♀787's seems reasonable. If so, each ♀ now has 1 egg. Watching to see each go in one.

800. The California Squirrel that's in the granary constantly just successfully nabbed a juicy Live Oak acorn from the main storage limb despite the woodpecker harrassment.

815. ♀193 (and ♂770) in; no tossing.

850. ♀193 in again for some time

930. Nest check: still the 3 eggs. Missy watching for awhile.

29 April 635. Watching. Noone in hole: nest check: still 3 eggs (#2 seen)

645. Watching.

657. ♀785, then ♀193 enter. Both ♂♂ at hole trying to look in; ♂771 pecks ♂770. ♂770 leaves, ♂771 still at hole.

740. Everyone's been gone for awhile. Nest check time: 4 eggs, only! #4: 24.4×20.0. Based on timing, if nothing else, I'd give this to ♀785; it was not laid by ♀787.

810. ♀193 in briefly (<1 min). 814. ♀193 in again for 6 min; when ♂770 entered she left.

830. ♀787 in! ♀193 follows briefly; ♂770 also. All leave except ♀787.

855. ♀193 in, 1 bird out right away. They could have switched.

900. ♂770 in, ♀ + ♂ out. Nest check! 5 eggs - 5th

Melanerpes formicivorus

1800 HNHR

(29 April) one almost certainly laid by ♀787 (♀193 has small chance of having laid it). Unfortunately, egg #1 now has a small dent which I think I inadvertently put in it. Tomorrow I can superglue it, but in any case this egg (probably ♀193's only one so far) is possibly messed up due to me.

920. Leaving.

30 April 630. Watching. Noone in hole.

646. With ♀787 at the hole, ♂770 came, she left, then ♂771 came and starting beating the shit out of ♂770! We're talking violence, while ♂770 was chattering the whole time. This continued in & out of the hole for 20 s until ♂770 went in the hole again, ♂771 left. ♂770 Then left.

648. ♀193 entered hole. 658. Leaves.

700. Nest check: still the 5 eggs. Egg #1 (the dent) superglued.

715. Watching.

722. ♀193 in again. 726. Leaves.

731. ♂770 in, out; ♀193 in. 740. Leaves. 743. In 749. Out.

800. ♂771 in now for 10 min - starting to incubate? 803. Leaves.

813. ♂770 in (not following a ♀). 820. Left. ♂♂ are no longer following, apparently.

830. ♀(193) inside. 833. Both ♂♂ come to nest.

834. ♀785 comes. ♂770 leaves, ♂771 enters, ♀785 enters. ♂771 leaves. ♂(♀785 in now at 834).

838. ♂771 at hole (guarding?) 842. ♂771 at hole again, goes in briefly. ♀785 still inside.

944. ♀ leaves. ♂ in, now out.

Melanerpes formicivorus

1850 HNHR

(30 April) 951. ♂770 & ♂771 at hole; ♂770 chattering. ♂771 leaves, ♂770 enters. 954. ♂ leaves. Nest check: 6 eggs. 6th is probably ♀785's, although ♀193 is still a possibility, having been in several times.

917. ♀785 in. 918. ♂771 at hole. 928. Enters. 931. Exits & leaves.

931. ♀193 comes briefly, leaves w/o entering

933. ♂770 comes; ♀785 leaves; ♂770 enters.

935. ♀193 at hole; leaves w/o entering (again at 938).

940. Nest check! 7 eggs! So! The 6th egg is ♀193's, while the 7th is necessarily ♀785's.

950. Leaving.

1 May 635. Arrived. ♀ in hole. 638. She leaves: she is ♀193. Hole check: 8 eggs. 8th is clearly ♀193's, unless ♀787 laid after 950 yesterday.

655. Watching.

712. ♂771 at hole. Leaves w/o entering

715. ♀193 enters 727. ♂770 comes, leaves w/o entering

730. ♀193 leaves. 732. ♂770 at hole. 733. Enters.

744. ♂771 comes; ♂770 leaves, 746. ♂771 enters.

747. ♂771 leaves.

751. Hole check. Still 8 eggs.

802. watching

815. ♂770 at hole, enters.

820. Leaves. 825. ♂770 at holes, leaves w/o entering.

830. ♀193 enters. 831. ♀785 at hole, leaves w/o entering

832. ♂771 at hole, leaves w/o entering. ♀ leaves

833. ♂770 enters. etc.

Melanerpes formicivorus

1800 HNHR

(1 May) All this continued until I left at 920; clearly incubation is in full swing - the eggs are warm and the birds are in the hole pretty regularly.

2 May No eggs laid today. I did at incubation watch from 700-1015. Everybody incubated except for ♀787, who came ~~to~~ three times (her harness is loose on her back, but the transmitter is still on) ~~and~~ but did not enter - on 1 occasion it really seemed as though the ♂♂ kept her out (she came to hole, both ♂♂ showed up immediately with ♂771 pecking aggressively at her while she chattered).

For the watch itself, see transcribed notes & computer output.

3 May Missy did an incubation watch here today. I did one 4 May.

5 May letting ~~♂~~ ♂774 go! Weight: 83.8gm. Time 625. Missy watched immediately afterwards (mainly the hole). He (♂774) was around, but did not show up at the nest.

The remainder of the experiment here consists of doing some more nest watches, both incubation and brooding, to see what, if anything, ♂774 does.

6 May 1230. Checked the nest: 6 eggs! eggs #2 and 6 are gone, while egg #5 is not developing.

11 May 1907. After a 90 min watch I checked the nest: 2 babies hatched, 2 more to come!

12 May 1230. Checked nest: 4 babies, weighed, etc.

13 May 1420-1720. Nest watched. Weighed babies at 1730 (only 3 - most likely all 785's, are left).

Egg-tossing history (1985)

Date	Laid	Tossed	
15 April	♀193(?)	♀193	Runt egg
16 April	♀193		
	♀785	♀[193]	Eggs quite different in size
17 April	♀193		
	♀785	♀193	Eggs quite different in size
		♀[787]	Nest empty 18 April
18 April	♀193·		
	♀785		
19 April	♀193·		
	♀785	♀[787]	Nest empty 20 April
20–21 April			No eggs laid
22 April	♀785	♀787	
23 April	♀787	♀193·	Runt
24 April	♀787	♀193·	
25 April	♀787	♀193·	
26 April	♀787		
	♀193·	♀785	Runt (193's)
27 April	♀193·		Not tossed
28 April	♀785		
	♀787		
29 April	♀785		
	♀787		
30 April	♀193·		
	♀785		
1 May	♀193·		

TOTALS:	Laid	Tossed	Incubated
♀193·	9	6	3
♀785	8	2	3
♀787	6	7	2
Grand total	23	15	8

Melanerpes formicivorus

1800 HNHR

15 May 1045. Weighed the babies.

17 May 1630. Injected the babies for DLW: weighed them at 1630, injections completed by 1638.

18 May 1730. Weighed and bled the babies.

19 May 1740. And again...

28 May Missy watched here 800-1100, after which I added two additional babies from Plague Annex. Day was foggy in AM.

29 May Missy watched on a nicer day (clear, but still cool), after which I returned the 2 babies to Plague Annex.

1 June Last watch day (Control Day #5). Afterwards I banded the babies as # 1093-1095

27 June 940. Watching. There are 3 eggs in The hole, 2 by ♀193 and 1 from ♀787(?)

1050. By now 4 birds - ♀193, ♀985, ♂770, and ♂771, have been in The hole. ♀985 was in The longest (mostly while ♂771 sat outside the hole); nobody tossed, however. Right when ♀985 finally left, ♂771 climbed out of The hole and went over to ♂774 who had just landed nearby and pecked him, then jumped on his back and pecked him again.

* Dominance interaction ♂771 > ♂774

Otherwise, ♂771 is clearly guarding ♀785, ♂770 : ♀193. I didn't see ♀787 at all.

1100. Climbed up and checked the hole: still 3 eggs. If anyone tosses, it will have to be ♀787 (or ♂774!)

2 July Mark has been watching here every morning. There are now 8 eggs, with all 3 ♀♀ contributing (and with tossing too, but we were unable to pin down much on that score). See Mark's notes for details.

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Horsetail HNHR

25 May After seeing suspicious-looking birds here over the past several weeks I put Stanback over here watching. He subsequently reported ~~at~~ 2 unbanded birds (drat!) with a nest in a live oak right above the 1st crossing! I opened it this afternoon and they have 4 eggs, which they are incubating.

Meanwhile Kim checked my granary segments and reports no stored acorns. Hence, I suspect these birds are living off acorns which are still on the live oaks.

28 May Noone's been in the hole the last couple of days, so we checked it today at 1215: 4 eggs; ~~[illegible]~~. stone cold - apparently they have abandoned, although the birds were in the vicinity and vaguely upset at me so I don't know what's up. In any case, I measured the eggs: ① 26.6 × 19.3
② 25.9 × 17.9
③ 27.2 × 18.6
④ 25.8 × 19.2

These 2 birds will be added (founded) as of "0" May.

5 June Mark has watched here twice since 28 May and seen no sign of anyone here... Have they abandoned?

2 July Mark's watched here several times and saw birds on 19 June, but things have been slow since. It may be abandoned now. See his notes for details.

9 November Two (+?) birds roosting in the nest hole here (!)

18 November Tried to ambush here but string broke.

20 November 730. This time I got them: 1♂ and 1♀, probably adults. They were taken last night, held & banded this morning (♂1183; ♀1184).

Note: Katy reports that these 2 birds, along with still more ub birds, all belong at Pipeline. See her notes.

31 December

Group Update

Both these birds disappeared or abandoned soon after the nest failed here.
→ Abandoned [redacted] (NSA) by end of June
See Stanback's notes for details.

Group is currently abandoned, except for birds roosting here from Pipeline.

1984
1985

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Haystack-Blomquist HNHR

18 October 755. Watching with Kim for vigilance. ①♀711 here, ♀604 here also. ♂571 seen; all 3 here storing acorns; the granary is filling up quickly.
830. Left. Birds were storing lots, but not staying for more than a few seconds in the granary.

1985

25 January 1700. Counted stores: 2841. The tree is packed!
21 April **Group Update.**
♀711. Last seen 28 Jan (Philip); gone by 2 April
→ D.A. 2 March ± 1 month

23 April 1200. Bird in high hole in nest tree over on Blomquists'. A nest for sure.

24 April 1900. Checked hole: 4 eggs.

2 May 1540. 6 eggs! Measured. Should hatch ~7 May.

7 May 920. 5 babies, very young; no eggs. Hence, all probably hatched.

31 May 1420. Banded the 4 babies (it's possible, though unlikely, that a 5th is hiding in this difficult, labyrinthal hole) as #1083-1086.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Haystack-Blomquist Nest Record

HNHR

24 April 1900 — 4 eggs

2 May 1540 — 6 eggs

① 25.5 × 20.1

② 25.7 × 20.4

③ 24.9 × 18.9 Undeveloped

④ 26.0 × 20.0

⑤ 24.8 × 19.7

⑥ 25.6 × 20.2

7 May 920 — 5 babies, ~1 do, no eggs

31 May 1420 — 4 babies, banded.

	(1083)	(1084)	(1085)	(1086)
31 May 1420	81.2 (86)	85.0 (85)	83.5 (82)	86.0 (85)
	902-42805 / DG-DB	LB-Blk / 902-42806	LB-DP / Wh	Yel / LB
	DPink / DBlue	Mauve / DB-Wh(n)	-807 / Or	DG / -808
	no black band	no black band	no black band	

1984
1985

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lower Haystack HNHR

26 September 630. Finally caught 1 of the unbanded ♂♂ here in an ambush in a new hole in the far part of the territory: This is now ♂972.

18 October 830. Watching. No sign of where any other roost holes may be!

1985

25 January 1715. Counted stores: Main tree: 2177 Not especially full
2° tree: 220
Total 2397

4 April Ambush set, but the string broke.

5 April Ambush set again. Didn't roost there!

13 April Ditto. Apparently roosting in the upper tree above the granary.

16 April A couple more failed tries here, but tonight I at least found a new hole (in a broken-off limb) they used in the main granary.

21 April ~~XA~~ Group update ~~xxd~~

♂857. ~~Best seen 3x Jan~~. The status of this bird appears to be uncertain. Best I can tell, he returned here late is spring 1984 (June) following abandonment in fall 1983 and was seen here lots after that. Philip last saw him 31 Jan 85, he was gone by 2 April, ~~so~~ (probably), so DA 28 Feb ± 1 month.

J953. Not seen after banding on 16 July '84.

J952. Last seen 31 Jan (unsexed!), gone by 2 April, DA 28 Feb ± 1 month.

23 April 1215. Missy reported incubation-like activity in the "normal" hole in the granary yesterday; I checked it: 6 freshish eggs.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lower Haystack Nest Record

HNHR

23 April 1200

6 eggs, freshish

① 25.2 × 20.7

② 26.7 × 21.0

③ 26.8 × 20.7

④ 26.7 × 19.9

Punctured did not develope → ⑤ 25.8 × 20.2

⑥ 26.6 × 21.0

2 May 1500

4 babies, 1 undeveloped egg

	① LB-Y/Lb (Don't know which is which on 7 May)	② Wh	③ Y-DP	④ DG
2 May 1500	12.7	11.0	11.7	5.8
DLW → 7 May 945	29.80	31.65	30.35	21.45
25 May 1300	92.5 (94)	90.2 (95)	88.5 (90)	91.8 (80) well behind the others
	1043	1044	1045	1046
Bands:	902-23367/DG-LB White / LB-Wh	DG-BP(n)/ -68 DG-Or / DG	Blk-LB/LB-Blk -69 / Wh-Red	Mauve/Wh-Green DG / -70

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lower Haystack HNHR

2 May 1300. 4 babies plus 1 undeveloped egg in the nest: apparently 5 hatched and 1 went bye-bye already.

7 May 945. Did DLW on the babies. Also watching now to try and nab an adult coming to the nest while the water equilibrates.

25 May 1300. Banded the 4 babies as #1043-1046.

29 May Set 2 ambushes up here after finding 2 roost holes last night.

30 May 430. Missed the bird in the nest (undoubtedly the nb ♂ I was after) but caught 2 ♂♂ together in the Blue Oak hole: ♂972 and ♂857. (The babies were still in nest.)

Hence:

** Group Update **

j954. Apparently gone by 2 April; last seen 31 Jan:
DA. 1 March ± 1 month

♂857. Obviously still here. Reinstated.

9 June Set an ambush late at the nesthole. j1046 was inside and failed to flush.

28 June 800. Found the 2nd nest, over in the Blue Oak (same hole as usual). There are 3 babies ~2do (1 looks newly hatched and probably won't make it) along with 2 unhatched eggs (1 developed but unpipped, the other damaged and dry); thus, it looks like another clutch of 5.

1984
1985

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Gazebo — HNHR

20 September 1515. One bird in the old nest tree with food in his bill looked suspiciously like he was about to feed at a nest, but I couldn't hear babies anywhere.

1985

5 April 1900. 3 birds roosted tonight in a hole in the central storage area.

6 April Set an ambush here tonight.

7 April Only 1 of the 3 birds roosted in the hole - the other 2 went in the other hole in the tree. But he was ♂717 and I got him and put him in the aviary as group #2 in my temporary ♂ removal experiments.

1500. Philip checked and saw the pair here, so we're all set.

8 April ♂717 was dead in the aviary today, so everything is off.

21 April ***Group update***

j955 956 & 957. All 3 not seen after banding on 16 July.

j958. Apparently NSAB either. All 4 were in poor shape when banded.

2 May 1650. Flushed a bird out of the ambush knothole. As she flew off, 2 others joined her. Hence, there are apparently 3 birds in this group!

7 May 1130. Noone in any holes...

9 May 1700. Bird in the hole again. It is the nest.

11 May 1630. Opened the hole: 5 eggs marked.

15 May 1700. Watching from blind. ① ♀ La-Wh/La #653. + 2 ♂♂.

→ ② ♂ Blk-LB/M, #942 Blk-LB/Blk [illegible]. [A CV verande bird...!]

seen well. Second ♂ has M on right leg... (#943 would seem a good guess.)

Melanerpes formicivorus

Gazebo Nest Record

HNHR

11 May 1630 — 5 eggs, marked

30 May 1730 — 5 babies

	① DG	#1103 ② Yel	③ LP	#1104 ④ Wh	⑤
30 May 1730	37.5 (16)	39.5 (16)	42.9 (18)	32.8 (15)	10.3 (starving)
16 June 1500	Gone	90.0 (90)	Gone	92.8 (77)	Gone
		902-42824/Yel-Wh Yel-Blk / Yellow		White-LBlue/902-42825 White / LBlue-DPink	

Melanerpes formicivorus

Gazebo HNHR

(15 May) 1750. Well I'll be buggered. The 2nd ♂ is ♂ M/LB LB Blk-Wht #718 - The one who's supposed to be here. So what is the other ♂ doing here???

1800. These birds are together. Obviously it's time to check out the history of ♂718 vis-à-vis CVCerande. Leaving

Well: ♂718 in fact has close ties with CVCerande. He was banded at Blomtwo in '82, but then "returned" to CVCerande in fall '82, moving to Gazebo in spring '83, Returning to CVCerande in fall '83, and finally back to Gazebo in spring '84. Now, ♂942 is an '84 baby from CVCerande, so it just goes to show that he apparently still has ties back there - in fact, this is indeed an interesting case.

** So: Add ♂942: apparently seen at CVCerande on 13 April, he is now at Gazebo → ~~Moved 28 April~~ ~~2 weeks~~ Actually, I noted 3 birds here on 2 May → hence, Moved 22 April ± 1 week.

30 May 1730. Checked the nest: 5 babies, 1 starving. I'd guess ~6 to.

16 June 1500. Banded the 2 babies left #1103 - 1104.

21 August Stanback reports that "some acorns" remain here.

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Blomone HNHR

16 September 1730. Phillip found a nest here this morning so I came and opened it:

① Y-W	② LP-LB	③ LB	④ DP	⑤
63.8(43)	71.8(44)	73.9(54)	73.6(54)	23.6(16) !

Five babies! 4 fine plus one runt whose eyes were open but was far behind. These birds will clearly be bandable soon!

20 September 1630. Banded the babies, #965-968 (5th was in the nest dead).

① #965	② #966	③ #967	④ #968	⑤ clearly

did not live much longer in the nest.

72.9(62)	79.0(64)	79.3(74)	77.6(74)

Tried laparotomies, only (possible) success was → ♂ (?).

1985

28 March Pam reports seeing ♂967 out near here today.

31 March 1315. ♀ LP/M LG-DG/LG #965 on side of Blom1 Knoll toward HNHR.

13 April 1630. A bird may have flushed from a hole, but I wasn't sure.

21 April ** Group Update **

♂966 & ♂967. These 2 moved to Blomtwo apparently mid-winter. Philip saw birds hanging out at Blomtwo (presumably these) on 30 Jan, so we'll let them go 15 January just because there were so few acorns at Blomtwo I can't believe they were there much earlier.

Oops. Change this. Philip ♂967 at Blomone on 31 Jan. So, I think they were just "fooling around" at Blomtwo until recently, so lets move them on 15 March, a reasonable date for them to 1st be "serious" about moving.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Blomone HNHR

25 April 700. Ambushed the lower (new) hole, bagging ♂492 (who I wanted for the temporary ♂ removal) and ♀990 (!), the one I banded at Blomtwo (!!) No eggs or anything else in the hole.

2 May 1700. Bird in new hole in Valley Oak by path (just up from old hole). I opened it: empty but in good shape. They could be close here! The experiment could work after all!

7 May 1145. ♀ in hole: 2 eggs, fresh!

11 May 1545. Checked the hole: 8 eggs!

13 May 630. Released ♂492! Then checked the hole, where the 8 eggs are still there. The ♂ immediately flew to the top of the nest tree and karrit-ed, after which he flew to the granary.

14 May 1820. Well! I'll have to check to see how Missy's watch went this morning, but he appears to have done it! The nest is empty!

5 June 1200. Despite our attempts to find this one, they managed to slip one in on us in a new hole, where they now have 6 fresh eggs. They very well may still be laying, however. I was hoping to get this one because they have 3 breeding ♀♀ here!

6 June This morning Mark watched and saw noone going to the hole. What's up? Surely they haven't abandoned just because we opened the hole?

Group Update

Add ♀812. This bird clearly participated in the 1st nest, but was apparently not present during Philip's 31 Jan census→

Melanerpes formicivorus

Blomore Nest Record

7 May 1145

11 May 1545

13 May 630

14 May 1820

5 June 1200

HNHR

2 eggs, fresh, marked.
(hole empty 2 May)

8 eggs! Marked

8 eggs still (♂ released)

Nest empty!

New hole: 6 eggs, fresh

① 24.0 × 19.3

② 25.3 × 20.2

③ 24.6 × 19.7

④ 25.2 × 20.2

⑤ 25.4 × 20.6

⑥ 24.6 × 20.5

Melanerpes formicivorus

Blomore HNJHR

(6 June) hence. Moved here somewhere between 1 Feb and ~15 April → 7 March ± 1 month. Note that this bird is ~~cont~~ a sibling of ♀808 & ♀809 and had been seen here before. This is also the group where one of the ♀♀ had "recruited" a the other to win the Power Struggle back in April '83; now a 3rd sib has joined them - almost 2 years later!

17 June Well, the 5 June hole was abandoned after we opened it, if not before (apparently after, since birds were in it up to then). Today Mark found what may be a new nest hole in the granary. He opened it, and it is currently empty.

2 July See Mark's notes for details here. The granary hole ~~was~~ had 1 egg laid on the 20th (Mark also saw tossing on the 19th; on the 29th a 2nd egg was in the hole (the 1st was gone). In between they showed little interest in the hole and apparently abandoned it again. We ~~have~~ have pretty much given up getting tossing here, but will try to locate and watch the 2nd nest if they ever get into it.

Another aborted attempt

~21 August Stanback reports that lots of acorns remain here.

1984
1985

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Blomtwo / Blomthree

HNHR

20 September 1445. No sign of life at Blomtwo.

1500. Not much sign of activity at Blomthree either, but hearing noises over by one of the vernal pools across the ~~road~~ path I walked over and flushed 4 birds and found a 4th (a ♂) trenchantly sitting in a hole looking out. It's probably a nest, but will be hard to get to. In any case, I'm unsure of what group it belongs to; it ~~as~~ could be Blomthrees, CVGrande, or conceivably even Gazebo's. The flushed birds tended to fly off toward CVGrande, however, so as a first guess I choose them.

1615. Noone in the hole this time; also no sounds coming from the hole.

1985

26 February 1830. Came to BLOMTWO at dusk; saw no sign of any birds in or out of holes. I also could see no stored acorns, despite Philip having claimed to have seen some here. In short, I don't think there's a group here, at least now, even if there was one earlier in the winter.

30 March At dusk tonight I flushed several (3-4?) birds from holes in the roost/granary tree, so there presumably is a group here.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Blomtwo HNHR

4 April Well! I came here this afternoon with Wes Weathers & Missy and set up some nets, then tried the Power Struggle tape with a mount (bad one!). They were there immediately, all 5 of them: ♂966, ♂967 from Blomone and 3♀♀ - 2 ub and ♀960 (incorrectly listed as a ♂) from CV#2. Neat! So it would appear we have 2 brothers (known) and 3 breeding ♀♀ here, the latter from CV#2.

The tape worked well - at least to bring them in - and Wes gave me some ideas that may improve things more. We eventually caught one of the ub♀♀, who is now ♀990, so there is now only 1 ub ♀ here, at least.

We also saw ♂832 come by briefly from Blomone to check things out.

I returned at dusk. All are still there as they have been for several evenings. But I don't think they're roosting together, even though they go through ~5-10 min worth of pre-roost mounting beforehand. This evening 2 birds at least appeared to fly off toward Blomone to roost while ≥1 ~~did~~ headed toward Blomthree - almost as if everyone's still heading home to roost.

7 April 1530. Nets up; speaker and mount in tree.

1535. ♂966 here; also ~~[illegible]~~ ♀960; intruders brought right away by the tape as usual.

1600. Not as much commotion as previously. Also not as many birds. Missy saw ♂967 but neither ♀990 nor the ub ♀ have been seen for sure.

1600. Intruder: ♀ LP/Red WH/M 94 | (from CV Veranda); also ♀ub apparently here

Melanerpes formicivorus

Blantwo HNHR

(7 April) 1620. ♀990, ub ♀ both here now.

1630. Taking nets down. Couldn't get them really interested in it this time.

21 April **Group Update**

See Blomore notes for comments re this group. I don't think anything serious was happening here this winter, although Philip saw birds hanging out here in late January. I'm provisionally starting the group off then on 15 March, when ♂966 & ♂967 from Blomore moved here with ♀960 and 2 ub ♀♀ (1 now ♀990) from CV#2.

Now, ~~all~~ all except ♀990 then appear to have turned right around and split for CV#1 on 10 April. Actually, all went, but ♀990 then returned (at least temporarily) and is now here with ♂963 from Dark Hollow. ~~So we will simplify things by leaving her at Blantwo for now.~~ So, all 5 ~~other~~ go to CV#1 on 10 April, and ♂963 comes here ~~on that day~~ with ♀990 on 15 April.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Blowthree HNHR

1 April After an unsuccessful ambush here last night (the birds roosted elsewhere, somewhere), I came here ~1015 and set up a net in the granary. With a stuffed male perched indelicately in the tree and a tape of ~~the~~ a power struggle, the birds were here immediately. In fact, the tape apparently drew 2± ~~100~~ intruders as well! The residents were 4: ♂768, ♀945, ub ♀ [5194], and an ub ♂ (!) This was a dilemma. The ub ♂ was quite in the thick of things and eventually got himself caught in the net and was banded as #988. He was possibly a juvenile: he had 2 small tailspots on one outer rectrix, he was molting a bit of his crown & some body feathers, his primaries were sort of blunt at best, his wing was shortish, and his wings were in pretty good shape - not too worn. Thus, of the likely scenarios, the most probable would seem to be that we missed a fall nest here and that he is a helper from it. Alternatives exist, but it seems unlikely that he would just join a group with an established ♂.

Another fall nest (1984) apparently

Unfortunately, ♂769 is apparently gone; Thus, this group would no longer appear to be a good candidate for a temporary ♂ removal. The tape eventually ran down and noone else was coming too close to the net, so we left ~ 1300.

8 April 1130. ♂ in hole. 1430. Back to check hole. Nothing yet.

21 April **Group Update**

♂769. Last seen 1 Feb., gone by 1 April → DA 85± 1 Mo. 1 March

Melanerpes formicivorus

Bloomtree HNHR

(21 April) j944. Not seen after banding.
Now: also add 1 ub bird who presumably fledged from a fall 1984 nest that we missed, and is now ♂989.

22 April 1700. Checked nest: 5 eggs, pretty fresh. One had a small crack in it, however.

2 May 1600. Checked nest: 2 babies, 3 eggs, just hatching. At least 1 of the 3 eggs won't hatch - it looks like it died as an embryo, maybe while hatching. The other 2 may, however.

28 May Banded the 4 nestlings here as #1054-1057. They all looked great!

20 June Mark found a 2nd nest here (hole above the 1st nesthole) and reports 5 fresh eggs.

1 July Nest empty! Failed. (Mark also reports 1 egg missing on 27 June). See Mark's notes for details.

18 August Last before leaving for France I saw a bird here, climbed up, and noted 4 eggs. Also, lots of acorns remain here.

15 September Banded 3 babies here, looking fine. This is by far the latest summer nest (or earliest fall nest) we've ever had.

4 December After several failed attempts I finally caught the unbanded ♀ plus 2 others in the nest hole in an ambush this evening. I held them overnight and processed them all in the morning. ♀ is now A71185. Other 2 caught were ♂769 and ♂989.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Blowhorn Nest Record

HNHR

22 April 1700 — 5 eggs: ① 24.4 × 18.8
② 23.9 × 19.7
③ 25.0 × 19.2
Small dent/crack in shell → ④ 23.4 × 19.7
⑤ 22.8 × 19.2

2 May 1620 — 2 hatchlings (day 6) plus 3 developed eggs; ~~##~~ all unhatched. At least 1 died while pipping, maybe.

28 May 1330 — 4 babies! banded 1054-1057

	(1054)	(1055)	(1056)	(1057)
28 May 1330	84.8 (100)	87.6 (100)	89.0 (99)	87.8 (105)

20 June — 5 eggs in a 2nd nest
27 June — 4 eggs in nest (MS)
1 July — Nest empty (MS)
18 August — 4 eggs
21 August — 4 eggs (MS)
15 Sept — Banded (3 babies)

	(1170)	(1171)	(1172)
	85.2 (80)	86.4 (77)	79.5 (81)

Melanerpes formicivorus

Dark Hollow HNHR

8 April 920. Watching. Several birds here but they aren't making themselves easy to see.

940. ①♀ Or-Wh/Or?-Dk? #696.

956. ②♂ M/Red #584 came briefly to granary.

1013. ③♀ Mauve/Mauve #695.

1035. ♂584 went into one of the old nest holes; is inside pecking.

1045. A 3rd ♀ here! ♀ Red/Lgn #961 (probable). All 3 together up on top of one of the trees.

1055. Leaving. Certainly possible that there's another ♂ here, but there weren't good signs of over 4 birds here. Also the hole that the ♂ went into is obviously one to watch.

9 April 700. Watching. None in any holes when I came.

714. ♂584 here; flew into hole, looked out, left. That hole is, with luck, going to be it, if it isn't already.

830. A tad more interest over near the opened hole. I'm going up to check it.

10 April 710. Watching. Only stayed a short time, then went to CV#1.

21 April **Group Update**

♂824. Last seen 1 Feb, gone by 8 April → DA 4 Mar. I/MO

j961. Presumably seen by Missy 8 April; a ♀

j962. NSAB on 29 July 1984.

♂963. Moved to Blomtwo 15 April 1985 (with ♀990).

j964. NSAB

28 May See Philip's notes for information and growth rates on the nest here. Today he banded the 6 babies here as #1061-1066.

16 June The remains of j 902-23394/BP-Wh(n) DB-Wh(n)/Or #1064? were under the nest hole. The bird had been dead sometime - my guess is that it died.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Park Hollow HNHR

(16 June) before fledging and only recently tried out enough for someone to ~~kick~~ leave him out of the nest. Note that Pam had found a baby in similar condition here (j1064) back on 10 June! Flash - this is the same bird - so only 1 baby - j1064 - has been found dead here.

21 August Mark S. reports "some" acorns remaining here.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Corral Viejo HNHR

20 March 1045. There is a bird flycatching in the main granary at CV#2, presumably indicative of incipient reoccupation here. It's a ♂, and he appears to have some problem with his right leg such that he can't extend his digits (I suppose this means he's probably banded!)

1100. There are 2 ♂♂ here. 1 is ♂ Yel/Yel [redacted], the other ♂ Bad leg w/ [redacted]. The 1st could be ♂843; I'm not sure who the other could be.

1115. ♂ #1 looks like ♂ Yel/Yel M/LP - #843 definitely likely. Still not sure who the 2nd ♂ could be.

1130. A ♀ here also! Looks unbanded.

1145. My guess for ♂#2 is ♂ Bad leg M/ #813, but I still haven't seen its other band very well.

2 April 910. There is at least 1 bird eating some acorns over at Dark Hollow. (I'm not sure anyone's seen birds there previously.)

3 April 930. Here at Blom3 something is clearly going on - There are several birds here and some rucous a bit earlier.

20 September See Blomtwo/Blomthree notes for what may be CVGrande's fall nest.

1600. Some birds near CV#1 and several at CV#2, but no sign of nests, or much storing as yet.

1610. No sign of much activity at OK Corral or at Dk Hollow.

27 October At CV2: I saw j960 - still ♂ type - with the PRBO class.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Corral Viejo HNHR

31 March 1215. At CV#1: ♀ in hole; nest could be soon. Also there were the feathers from a well-plucked Woodpecker on the fallen limb directly below the tree. No hope of identification, but it looked like a Cooper's Hawk killing perch. Hence, one of the birds here has probably recently been nabbed.

1225. At CV#2: ♂ MV LG Or-WH/DG-LG #959; a baby from last year in the granary.

7 April ♀941 from CVGrande seen intruding at Blomtwo.

10 April 700. Power struggle at CV#1! Going to Dark Hollow but I will return here.

♂943 815. Nets up (2) at CV#1. Caught 1 ♂: ♂943 from CVGrande.

850. Watching: ② ♀ LB/Or-LB #960 from CV#2 (Blomtwo??)

♀976 from SchHill ③ ♀ Or/LG-WH(n) ④ ♀? LB-Blk/M → both these are prob ♀976.

910. Caught ♀990 being chased! ⑤ ♀ M/Red-WH Red/WH-Yel #819 formerly of Gazebo

Seems to be 10-12 birds here, mostly ♀♀.

920: LB-DG/LP = ♂966 from Blomore.

♀819 from Gazebo 930. Caught a third banded bird being chased: ⑤ above #819.

940. ♀960, ♀990, and ub ♀ together - all 3 (from "Blomtwo") are here. Furthermore, if I had to guess, I'd say they were winning.

945. ⑥ ♂ M/DB-WH(n) LB/LP #966 from Blomore

Most of the serious fighting seems to be between (among) ♀♀.

953. ♂ Or/Blk-Or #967 here eating an acorn. Most of the activity seems to be ♀ generated. There are several ub ♀♀ here.

1000. Finally got an ub ♀, so I have to head home and get bands.

1045. Have 3 more, inc. ♀990 again; also ♀960, 2 ub ♀♀.

1110. Watching again. Things have calmed down, but there's still a fair amount of chasing.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Corral Viejo HNTHR

(10 April) 1130. ♂966, 967 still here. The 3 ♀♀ are still here: ♀960, ♀990, and ub ♀ as well.

1150. An occasional intruder, but these 5 birds (the Blomtwo 5) clearly have it all pretty well wrapped up. I'm going to leave the nets up and check back later.

21 April **Group Update**

CV#2 ♀960 (+ presumably 2 sisters, both ub) moved to Blomtwo on 15 March 1985.

CV#1 All birds apparently gone by 10 April; this group hasn't been watched carefully and we don't really know what's up or what happened to allow all the Blomtwo birds to take over on 10 April.

2 May 1600. At CVerande, they now have 7 eggs – pretty good evidence of 2 ♀♀. It also means that FED here (- egg tossing) was ~21 April, they should hatch ~ 5 May, and be banded ~30 May.

13 May 1900. Found OKCorral's nest – it's high! Babies have hatched and are pretty young still.

15 May See Gazebo notes re ♂♀42 from CVerande who has moved to Gazebo, joining ♂718.

20 May Banded the 3 babies at OKCorral who are virtually ready to fledge (one tried to, not quite successfully).

24 May Went to check CV#2's nest: 2 mummified babies ~ 7 do, say, when they died. (Philip reported eggs here earlier). Obviously a new nest will be forthcoming here...

1 June 1715. 2 birds in one of the old holes at CV#2. No sounds when they flushed so I presume they have eggs.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Corral Viejo Nests

CVGrande

22 April 1715 — 4 eggs; egg (1) with small dent
Eggs pretty fresh; bird in hole.

2 May 1600 — 7 eggs; all developing d.

30 May 1700 — 5 babies, banded

1077	1078	1079	1080	1081
91.9 (104)	87.1 (104)	88.8 (101)	97.4 (98)	84.3 (80)

OK Corral

20 May 1630 — 3 babies, banded #1034-1036

1034	1035	1036
83.2 (96)	88.4 (106)	86.1 (104)

17 June 1830 — 4 eggs (2nd nest)

Outback

1 June 1900 — 7 eggs.

21 June 850 — Banded 4 babies

1112	1113	1114	1115
58.7 (41)	67.1 (40)	53.6 (34)	51.6 (34)

CV #2

2 June — New nest: 7 eggs

16 June 1130 — 5 babies ~7 do.

1 July 1200 — 5 babies banded (MS)

1118	1119	1120	1121	1122
78.8 (68)	74.9 (72)	77.0 (57)	57.0 (55)	76.5 (73)

Melanerpes formicivorus

Corral Viejo #1 Nest Record HNHR

♂967 removed here 6 June AM – 16 June

8 June — Starback watched. 2 eggs laid.
① 26.8 × 19.4

9 June 1500 — never hatched: 4 eggs ② 24.1 × 19.1; ③ 28.5 × 19.4; ④ 25.2 × 20.2

10 June 1300 — 5 eggs ⑤ 25.5 × 20.1

11 June 1000 — 6 eggs ⑥ 25.1 × 19.8

12 June — No eggs laid...

16 June 840 — Let ♂967 go; watched nest continously until 1900, 17 June

18 June 1000 — 6 eggs.

20 June 1315 — 6 eggs.

24 June 1600 — 3 babies (♀ from 1, 5, & 6)

Melanerpes formicivorus

Corral Viejo HNHR

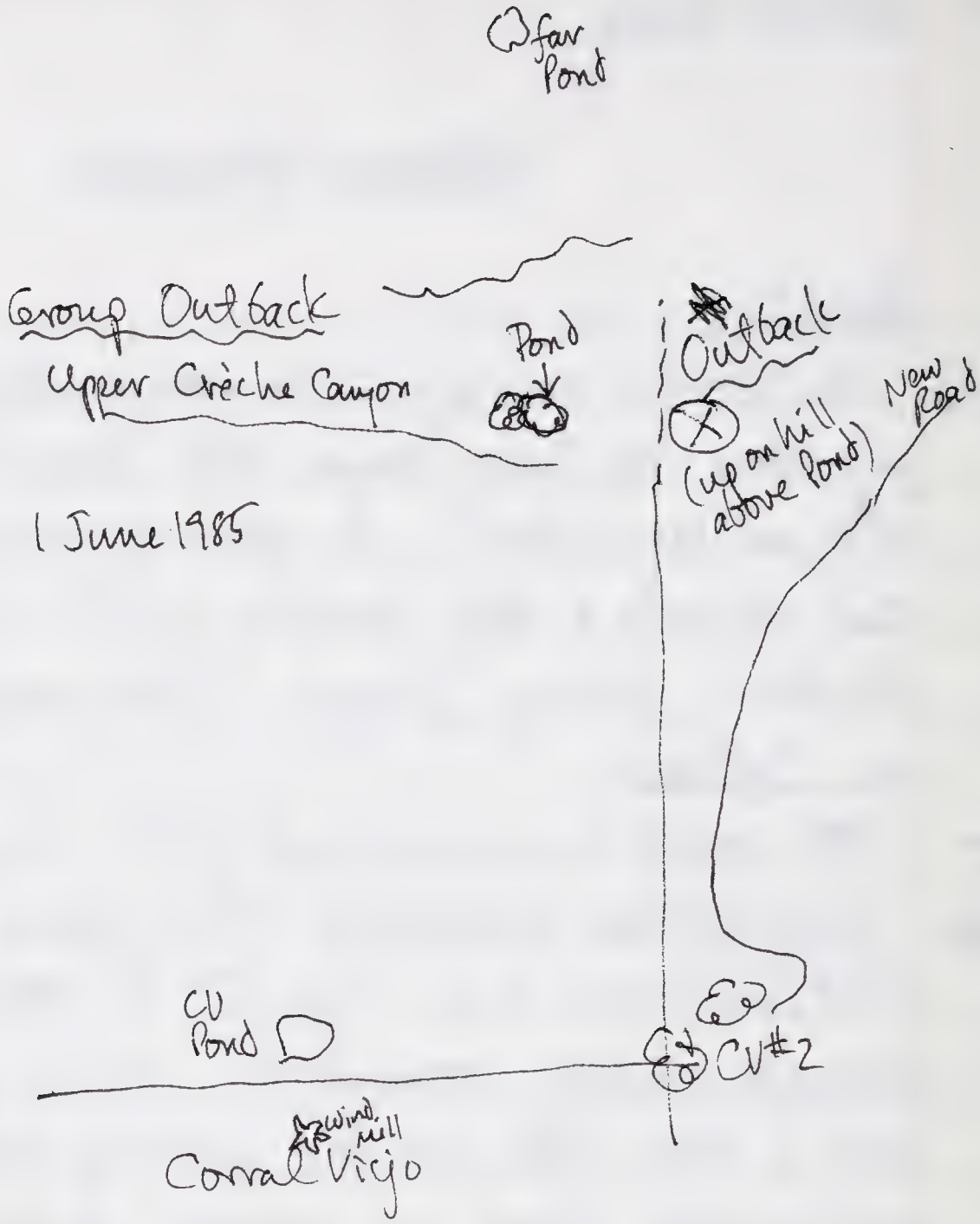
(1 June) Was found a nest up at the group along the fenceline just above the Creche Canyon pond (follow the fence up from CV#2; see map on back), so after opening a hole at CV#1 that had only a dead starling in it(!) Mark and I climbed it, finding 7 eggs. This group will be known as Outback.

2 June 1700. Opened the new hole at CV#2: 7 eggs, pretty fresh.

6 June Ambushed this morning at CV#1, getting 3 of the 4 Girls: ♂967, ♀960, and ♀ub. The 2nd ♂, however, roosted in the main granary, somewhere – not in some hidden nest, I hope (they are still showing interest in a hole on the knoll where we removed a dead Starling 3 days ago, and I'm hoping they will nest there forthwith!) I banded the ub ♀ as #1096; both ♀♀ were heavy, their cloacae distended, and their abdomens inflated with a brood patch - hence I assume they are just about to lay, if (as I hope) they aren't laying already.

In hopes that they are just about to nest, I removed the ♂ (♂967) and put him in the aviary for another temporary ♂ removal experiment.

13 June Stanback has been checking CV#1. The story is: both ♀♀ laid on 8 & 9 June, whereas only 1 laid on 10 & 11 June; noone laid yesterday. Hence, they have 6 eggs, and Missy is doing an incubation watch today. Unfortunately it's quite possible that the ♀♀ were laying (and tossing) when I caught the ♂. Thus the experiment is not ironclad..


far Pond
Group Outback
Upper Crèche Canyon
Pond
Outback
(up on hill above Pond)
New Road
1 June 1985
CV Pond
CV#2
windmill
Corral Vigo

Melanerpes formicivorus

Corral Viejo HNHR

(13 June) Nonetheless, the ♂ presumably "knows" there were no eggs as of when I removed him, ~~none~~ (we checked the nest hole on 5 June and there was nothing there), and thus presumably will know he is at least at a big disadvantage in terms of fathering any of the eggs. Also, on the definite plus side, he will have been in "breeding" condition when I caught him, and should still be wired for reproduction when I let him go this weekend.

16 June 840. Flushed a bird from the CV#1 hole and checked it: still 6 eggs. I then let the ♂ (8967) go, and we are now going to monitor the nest nonstop for at least the next 2 days.

1130. After Mark relieved me at CV#1 I checked CV#2's nest: they have 5 healthy looking babies (no eggs in hole) about 6-7 do.

1620. A bird (Adult) in the earlier nest hole at OKCorral. When she flushed I heard nothing, so presumably they have eggs if it is a 2nd nest. They certainly have a lot of acorns!

1700. Caught an ub ♀ - now ♀1105 - in a net set in front of the hole at CV#2; I injected her for DLW and let her go at 1817.

17 June 1830. I had Mark check the hole at OKCorral: 4 eggs.

21 June 800. Banded the 4 (still pretty young) babies at Outback as #1112-1115. This group still has stores. Note, also, that it is apparently a 2nd nest for this group, as they already have some fledglings (fide Mark).

Melanerpes formicivorus

Coral Viejo HNHR

2 July At CV#1 we've been doing regular watches, nothing new yet.

Mark banded 5 babies at CV#2 on 1 July as #1118-1121. See his notes (1 July) for details.

16 July 500. Ambushed at CVGrande's 1st nesthole, getting 2 babies and the 2 helpers, but not the ub ♀.

4 December Caught the unbanded ♀ plus 5 others at the 1st nest hole at Coral Viejo Grande this evening, finally. I held them all overnight and processed them in the morning. ♀ is now A♀1186. Others caught were ♂6837, 7941, 61079, 71078, and ♂942 (from Cazebo? What's going on here? There has been some odd connection here for several months as the CVGrande birds seemed to be roosting over at Cazebo [or somewhere nearby] the last few times I tried to ambush here.)

[Note: Stanback reports that lots of acorns remained at CVGrande as of about 21 August; also a lot remaining at CV#2 and at OKCoral

Melanerpes formicivorus

CV#2 HNHR

18 November 1445. Watching.

1510. ① ♀ Y-LA/-LA # 1119. Pretty sure of sex (but not positive).

1945. ② ♀ Lab.

1600. ③ ♂ WH # 843 ④ ♂ Yel/DG-LA # 959.

165. Leaving. I would guess that these 4 are all that are here. I see 4 at once and I've seen a couple of these several times, but no sign of any others.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Prairie Home Field HNHR

2 July After Vas prompted us to check here, Mark has been here several times reporting

① A nest with 5 eggs on 25 June

② ♀650 here on 23 June along with ≥3 other adults, apparently 2 ad ♂♂, 1 ad ♂ + ♀650; no babies seen. See his notes for details.

1984
1985

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Gate HNHR

23 March 1100. Sharon (Bill's FA) stopped me on my way back and reported 2 birds here, so I've halted to watch for a bit.
1125. Noone's returned to the area. But something is up here, it would seem.

30 August Ruth Griffin found a road kill here this evening - an unbanded adult ♀ right below the Sycamore

1985

2 February 1600. Counted only 133 acorns in the granary, but, of course, they don't have many holes here any more to begin with (they aren't using the fallen limbs we put back up in the tree). However, at least one Live Oak right next to the granary still has acorns on it, so they clearly aren't hunting out here.

22 April **Group Update**
Even though there are a few acorns here, it's looking as though noone's here, and it appears as if noone may have really been here for some time. So, all 4 birds (♂627, ♀♀854, 859, & ub) are → D.A. 1 Sept. ± 2 Mo. Currently there is noone here.
It's certainly not clear what happened here, since there were acorns around all winter. Maybe the DOR ub ♀ Ruff found at the end of August is significant. Anyway, the whole group seems to have just faded out this fall for no obvious reason.

23 April 1530. A pair here ① ♀ ub and ② ♂ Yel/DB #627 !!!
So he's here after all!

Melanerpes formicivorus

Gate HNHR

15 May 1000. ①♂ ♀ in top of tree.

Group update

♂627, ♀u6 [#5185] returned to Gate 20 April 1985. I have very little idea what these birds were doing all winter, but for simplicity's sake I'll assume they were here all along...

20 May 1015. Within 2 min of getting up on the hill to watch I saw a bird enter a hole way up in the main sycamore. I think he was without food and that they are still incubating.

1900. Opened the hole: 4 eggs (couldn't see if they were incubated or not!).

4 June Checked the nest (1200): 3 babies ~7 do.

8 June After several misses I caught the ♀ on the nest with a tennis ball. She is now ♀1097.

20 June Banded the 3 babies as #1106-1108.

Stabback reports "quite a few acorns here"

16 October 745. Out here watching with Katy. Four birds were here briefly, all in the Westgate tree (one flew in from Gate); I assume they are the Gate birds.

757. ①♂ LP/DB #627; ②♀ Red-Wh(u)/Red-Wh(u) #1097 in the WGate tree. They are indeed the Gate birds.

800. ③♀ Blk-Red/M #1107. Birds are busy storing in the Westgate tree.

820. ④♂ DB-Or/Or M #1106. ⑤♀ DB/LP ?? Don't know who this one is; I don't think it was ♀1097.

830. ♀ LB/M #1108 Seen well (?) left right away.

That appears to be it. They're all here.

Melamerpes formicivorus

Gate Nest Record HNHR

20 May 1900 4 eggs

4 June 1200 3 babies ~7 do

20 June 1030 3 babies, banded

	1106	1107	1108
20 June 1030	76.0 (88)	69.2 (87)	76.8 (79) (Behind other 2)

Melanerpes formicivorus

Wertgate HNHR

2 February 1630. Counted stores: 460. There were 2 birds up in the granary also.

3 March Stanback watched out here this morning and reports lots of half bands and that there may only be 1 group here, as I had suspected from the lack of stores at Gate.

23 April 1540. A slight TODO here - and the 2 birds in charge - 1♂ and 1♀ - are both ub!!

Looks like a complete group turnaround here!

24 April A Power Struggle going on here this morning.

1115. Watching. Lots of ub ♀♀ here - 5+. No banded birds sighted yet.

1125. Looks like the (ub)♂ may be chummy with 2 ♀♀, but it's not obvious that they belong together. In any case, there are 5-6 ♀♀ here, all ub as far as I can tell.

13 May Saw a bird in one of the unsavory holes in the main tree twice today. Unfortunately, it's probably it.

15 May 800. Went up to the hole (no bird in it this time). It's not all that nice and, as far as I could tell with the peeper, it's empty. With luck they'll still go for another one.

20 May 1000. ♂ in that hole again.

1 June 1615. Went up to the hole. It's odd - it goes down ~2' but is actually easily accessible through the storage holes! They have 3 eggs, 2 of which looked opaque.

8 June ~~xx~~ Group Update ~~xx~~

6626, ♀855 both disappeared between 7 and 23 April → 15 April ± 1 week. Two new ub birds joined.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Westgate Nest Record	HNHR
1 June 1615	3 eggs, 2 opaque.
19 June	Nest failed (empty)
	Group abandoned.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Westgate HNHR

19 June Mark reports the apparent demise of this group: not only has the nest failed but the birds no longer appear to be here and the area is being used by the Gate birds!

See Mark for additional notes. Gate birds still here on 29 June.

16 October The Gate birds are here storing and flying back and forth. This group is officially defunct.

1984
1985

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Pipeline HNHR

8 September 730. At least 1 bird was in the granary here when I drove by this morning.

12 November Still no stores here, but there are 2 birds hanging out here on a reasonably frequent basis. Phillip saw them both a few days ago (they came to the tape) and they were unbanded, drat sûr. Tonight both were in the nest hole about @ 1600, but nobody roosted there.

8 December Philip has recorded the 2 birds here a couple of times, but there are still no stores here and noone appears to be roosting here. Thus, I'm not sure we can reasonably say there's a group here, at least yet.

1985

1 February 1320. I could only find what could be a single good-looking stored acorn here, so unless the birds just aren't trying, I'd have to conclude that this territory is currently abandoned.

5 May So far there's been no sign of anyone being here all spring.

6 May 715. A bird up in the granary when I drive by. No stores here, however.

~~8 May~~

724. 2 ub ?? here! However, they may not be friends.

735. Leaving. Something could be going on here after all; it should be checked, in any case.

15 May 805. Watching. 830. No sign of life here.

2 July Birds have been here off and on; Mark saw a Warp 5 baby here at least once, suggesting that they are the ones hanging out. But he also saw an ub baby here on one occasion! No good evidence this ~~go~~ territory

Melanerpes formicivorus

Pipeline HNHR

(2 July) was ever occupied, however.

16 October No birds seen here the last couple of days; also no acorns stored here yet. But I may have heard birds here last night at dusk so I'm not convinced it isn't occupied.

No acorns stored here as yet.

18 November Ambushed at the double hole in the granary nabbing 2 ub ♂♂ (now #1181 / 1182). There are apparently 2 more - 1 more ♂ and a ♀ - all ub (see Katy's notes). Maybe these other 2 are roosting at Horsetail (?) I held these 2 overnight and released them at 800 19 November.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Warp 5 HAHR

14 April 715. Walked around up here, seeing stores, holes, and a bird, but no sign of a nest yet.

5 May 1700. Checked holes and hung around here for a bit, but no luck at finding the nest.

13 May 1010. Bird in new hole! Found the nest!

15 May 900. Opened the hole: babies - old ones! Eventually, I went ahead and banded them as #997-999.

30 June Mark found the probably 2nd nest here in the same hole.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Warp5 Nest Record HNHR

15 May 900 3 babies

	① Red	② Mv	③
15 May 900	73.8(52)	73.2(51)	73.8(47)
Banded	#997	#998	#999

2nd nest

Melanerpes formicivorus

Wolfpack HNHR

4 October Katy reports a new group in between Road1 and Pipeline consisting of ~~[illegible]~~ ≥3 birds, inc. 2 ub♀♀, 1 ub♂, + maybe a third ♀. They are apparently storing in the large Valley Oak across the road and spend a lot of time in the Sycamore (see map on back).

14 October Came at dusk to watch roosting; there appear to be 4 birds here.

15 October ≥1 bird roosted high in the Sycamore; 2 seem to have zipped off up the hill toward Warp 5.

26 October We hit the jackpot this morning, catching 6 unbanded birds here, 5 in the large dying sycamore by the road (1♂ + 4♀♀) and 1 in the tall sycamore by the former site of the 1980 R1 nest (a ♂). Two may have been 1st-yr birds, but their ages were not obvious. They ~~were~~ are now #1174-1179.

I think These birds may be "from" Warp 5, but I'm not sure. At least now we can find out!

1984
1985

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Road 1 — Hastings Reservation

8 September 730. Back on the job! Watching from the hide with Kim Sullivan, to census, check for nests, and attempt a vigilance study.

745. 2 birds landed, briefly. ① ♀ wh-DB/M #383. Stayed to eat part of an acorn. Apparently no heavy storing here yet.

750. ② ♂ wh/M #579 in the sycamore by the road. ③ ♂ wh/Blk #580.

820. ④ ♀ DB-wh/M/wh #269; ⑤ ♀ M/DB #804. Eating green acorns; no storing yet. #269 looks blind in her left eye (!) But she's still here. She keeps head-cocking to the left a lot apparently to compensate for it.

830. ⑥ ♂ -or/wh-or #486.

850. Leaving. Birds are not into storing yet, but are eating green acorns. Everyone except ♂ 672 is here; and he does appear to be gone.

1985

2 February 1545. Counted stores: Valley Oak: 1332; Sycamore: 1370 } 2702

This is probably a conservative estimate; both these trees are loaded with acorns.

6 April Missy watched here today and saw 3 unbanded birds cavorting along with the residents - the only conceivable explanation for which would seem to be another fall nest that we missed. Argh. It also, of course, means that we have a whole slew of new unbanded birds to nab.

Fall (1984) nest apparently

~~1984~~ 1985 Walter D. Koenig 2

Melanerpes formicivorus

Road

HNHR

14 April 700. Missy is watching the main roost tree and I'm watching some other holes to see if they're interested yet.

730. ♀ wh-DB/M #383.

750. ♂ DB-Or/wh-Or #486.

815. ♂ Or/Or #579.

Certainly no sign of them going to the Sycamore by the creek. Several trips were made up to the Black Oak, but I don't think anyone went to the holes there either.

16 April A big ambush in the "low" hole in the Road Sycamore bagged 5 birds - ♂486, ♀804, and 3 unbanded 1st yr birds; clearly from a missed fall 1984 nest, who are now #994-996. All were released after processing except for ♀804, who I held and eventually glued a transmitter (2;12;-0.5) to and released. [Transmitter fell off immediately]

So: everybody, apparently, but the 2 breeding ♀♀ roosted in this hole. After dark I went out to see if I could find where ♀804 roosted to see if we could find the mystery hole here, and she apparently was in the Sycamore by the creek (presumably a hole used a couple years ago). So maybe that's it, but we do need to keep an eye out here.

22 ~~April~~ ** Group update **

♂580. Last seen 8 Sept. by me; gone by 27 Feb.,
→ DA 1 Dec 1984 ± 2 months.

♂672. Last seen 27 July (64? Ron.), gone by 8 Sept →
DA 17 Aug ± 2 weeks

24 ~~April~~ 1200. Bird in ambush hole. Nest check: 7 eggs. Missed this one -

Melanerpes formicivorus

Road 1 Nest Record

HNHR

24 April 1200

7 eggs:

① 25.6 × 19.5
② 26.1 × 19.7 Did not develope
③ 25.7 × 19.6
④ 25.5 × 19.6 Developed but didn't hatch
⑤ 24.9 × 20.2
⑥ 25.1 × 20.9
⑦ 25.0 × 20.9 Did not develope

These fall out into 2 pretty nice sets, at least!

28 April 1115 Still 7 eggs.

1 May 1740 " " "

2 May 1820 " " "

5 May 1630 4 babies, 0-1 do, + 3 eggs

11 May 1045 4 babies + 3 eggs

		① Or	② LP	③ Mv	④ Wh
11 May	1045	27.45 Removed to Finch	23.55 Removed to Finch	24.95	28.95
12 May	1030	(31.20) Returned from Finch	(25.60)	28.10	33.35

		① Or	② LP	③ Mv	④ Wh	⑤ LB	⑥ Blk
13 May	1035	38.20	32.45	34.70	39.10	(38.15)	(37.20)
14 May	700	Missing	Nest failed; see notes. Decapitated	Decapitated	Decapitated	Skull smashed	Alive, returned to Finch 40.10

Added from Finch

The 3 unhatched eggs were still in the nest, by the way.

(see back)

26 May		Stanback watched: 2 eggs laid	
		① 25.8 × 19.7	
		② 24.9 × 21.4	
27 May		4 eggs ③ 25.1 × 21.0	
		④ 25.3 × 20.0	
28 May	1240	6 eggs ⑤ 25.0 × 19.4	
		⑥ 25.1 × 20.3	
29 May	1630	8 eggs ⑦ 25.6 × 20.0	
		⑧ 26.2 × 19.3	
30 May	1445	Still 8 eggs.	
9 June	1400	Only eggs 2&3 hatched	

9 June	1800	10.05	9.25	
10 June	1200		LBlue	still only 2 eggs. Egg 7 missi
15 June	1530	40.05	38.55	Only 3 eggs still in nest.
18 June	1015	Mauve (Black, Reg) 50.05 Removed for Day	Mauve (Black, Reg) Removed for the day 50.20	
19 June	1040	(57.05) Returned on 19 June	54.10	White Added from R3
20 June	1115	59.0	62.60	(51.7)
21 June	1040	62.2	68.3	55.7 Returned to R3 — No eggs Eggs tossed to Am!
		(1124)	(1123)	
1 July	1530	89.0 (92)	92.5 (88)	

Melanerpes formicivorus

Road 1 HNHR

28 April 1115. Checked the nest: still the same 7 eggs; warm.

1 May 1740. Still not hatched.

2 May 1820. " " "

5 May 1630. 4 babies hatched. 3 eggs did not: 2 were not developed (#2 & 7), while #4 had developed but did not hatch.

11 May I watched this morning here for Control Day #1. Weather was cool but not unpleasant. Lots of feeding by lots of birds. Afterwards 2 of the babies were switched to Finch for the day.

12 May ~~I~~ watched for experimental day #2. The 2 babies were then returned from Finch.

13 May Control day #3. I added ~~the~~ 2 babies from Finch.

14 May ! I watched for 1 hour, during which time ♀269 made 3 visits, staying a long time each time. Finally ♀383 showed up with food, ate it herself, entered, and then turned around and left right away. That did it - I stopped the watch and checked the nest: 3 of the babies had had their heads completely eaten, a fourth's skull had been smashed and partly eaten - possibly owl predation?? Only ♂Blk, one of the Finch babies, survived (he was cold but ok) so I removed them all and will hang onto the survivor until I can return him to Finch following Vasi's watch.

! This also means that 1 baby was removed entirely

25 May 1000. Bird in hole... (same one in sycamore).

1445. Checked hole: empty. Could be time to watch for egg-tossing!

26 May Stanback watched this morning: 2 (normal) eggs were laid.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Road) HNHR

(26 May) So! We apparently missed any egg-tossing that may have taken place. See Mark's notes for more details.

27 May Two more eggs.

28 May " " " . Eggs have been marked.

29 May 8 eggs now.

30 May Measured the 8 eggs. (Stanback measured them).

18 June This morning Missy watched, after which I took one of the babies home for the day. (Only 2 hatched out of the 8 eggs!)

19 June Philip watched today after which I returned the 2nd baby.

20 June Added a 3rd baby (from R3) after Missy's watch today. It was foggy and cool early today, as it was yesterday (but not the 18th).

21 June During Missy's watch this morning the 2 breeding ♀♀ tossed the 3 remaining unhatched eggs!

I returned the R3 baby after her watch.

1 July Mark banded the 2 babies as #1123-1124

1984 Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Valhalla HNHR

14 September I don't know when the tree was last observed, but the granary here has fallen.

1984
1985

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Finch HNHR

8 November At long last a successful ambush here - 3 birds, inc. ♂63, ♂613, and the ub♀ (now ♀986) in a hole in the sycamore (unopened). The 4th bird had roosted elsewhere.

1985

1 February 1320. Counted stores: Valley Oak: 775
Sycamore: 1010
Aux. Syc. 83
} 1868.

Doing well. The sycamore is especially full.

2 March Mark Stanback watched here yesterday and saw (probably) ♂613 and ♀986, along with a 3rd "Mystery bird".

3 March 1515. Watching for the mystery bird.
1524. ① ♂ LB-Or/LB #542, in the granary
1535. ② ♂ Red-DB/M #613 here now.
1540. ③ ♀ Maroon/Red. #986.
1545. Leaving. No sign of ♂63 - definitely a tragedy if he's gone!

28 April 1145. Nest in low hole in sycamore: 3 eggs, not real fresh.

5 May 1615. 3 babies, 0-1 do.

11 May Was watched here for Control Day #1. She did not have a blind; The ♂63 was unaffected, but the ♀ may have been freaked out. Starting tomorrow we will use a blind here. After the watch I added 2 babies from R1 to make a grand total of 5 here.

12, 13, 14 May Exp. days — Control Day #3
Was watched on 12, 14 May, Missy on 13 May (all with a blind). Only 1 baby was returned on 14 May, as the 3rd died in the predation event at R1.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Finch Nest Record

28 April 1145 — HNHR

3 eggs, incubated some
① 26.1 × 19.2
② 25.9 × 19.8
③ 26.5 × 20.3

5 May 1615 — 3 babies, probably 1 do.

11 May 1100 — 3 babies + (2 added from R1)

	① 1075 DB	② LB	③ 1076 BlkR	④ Added from R1 Or	⑤ LP
11 May 1100	26.30	27.25	24.00	(27.45)	(23.55)
12 May 1015	31.70	31.45	29.20	31.20 Returned to R1	25.60
13 May 1025	39.15	38.15 Removed to R1		37.20 Removed to R1	
14 May 1015	44.40	[Killed at R1]		(40.10) Returned from R1	
15 May 1015	47.00	—		37.70	
1st wt 30 May 1400	91.20 (95)			95.00 (93)	
Inject. vol.	270 µl (Some on breast)			270 µl (Clean)	
2nd Time wt.	37A → 1518 ← Time 88.40			38A → 1519 ← Time 93.20	
31 May 1530	79.70 (102)			84.70 (97)	
Blood taken	1535 → 37B (102)			~~84.70 (97)~~ → 1536 38B	

19 June 1050 — 3 eggs, (same hole); incubated
① 26.8 × 20.5
② 26.7 × 20.5
③ 26.8 × 20.2

Melanerpes formicivorus

Finch HNHR

15 May 1015. Missy watched here this morning for "Control Day #5" unfortunately with only 2 babies in the nest rather than the 3 that belong here. This ends the transplant experiment here.

30 May Injected the babies for DLW and banded them as #1075 & 1076.

19 June 1050. 2nd nest - same hole! They have 3 eggs, incubated.

9 July Mark found j1076, a DOR, over here today.

~21 August Stanback reports lots of acorns remaining here.

Melanerpes formicivorus

MacFlat HNHR

15 September This morning it appeared as though there might be 3 birds here, as I had 3 in view while the (apparent) R3 birds were down the road (and also up the side of PO Hill). Then, this evening, I found another roost hole where ≥1 bird went in. Thus, this group would appear to be active!

3 November I ambushed at the hole today and caught 1 unbanded ♀, a 1st-yr bird, now #985. When I let her go she was immediately greeted by at least 1 other bird. Thus, although I don't know of any stores here, I'm pretty confident there is a group here. This group was apparently recolonized this fall (it seems very unlikely that she's a baby from here...).

4 November OK. We are going to reinstate this group as of 0 April 1984 with an unbanded pair, who bred and fledged 1 baby, now ♀985.

* However! Ron claims there was not a group here last spring, so perhaps I'd better back off here and see what happens (birds are not readily seen here, even now} and I can't find anyone roosting here).

7 November A bird roosted in the '83 nest hole here tonight.

12 November Still not positive what's up here. Phillip saw the same 3 birds I did a few days ago (ub pair + ♀985), but they are not hanging around regularly. Plus, ♂792 from R3 roosted in the hole I caught her in last night. However, at least every few days a bird does roost in the nest tree, so until I catch them I can't be sure what's happening.

Melanerpes formicivorus

MacFlat HNHR

30 November Caught an unbanded ♀ (988) in the nest Sycamore here; a 2nd bird had roosted in the Valley Oak across the road but I didn't have anything set up there. My guess is that these are R3 birds, but I won't know for sure until I get back to watch. When I caught here there were birds calling on the hill up above. I let her loose at R3 (where there was noone) and she promptly flew over to MacFlat, heading up the hill. So she could be from the elusive MacFlat group, unless the R3 birds are hanging out down here.

8 December The ♀ I caught above does not appear to be the R3 ♀, who appears to still be unbanded. So it would appear as though I got the 2nd MacFlat ♀.

Ron, by the way, confirms that there were not birds here this spring, so they are apparently new immigrants this fall. But I still don't know what they're doing - they seem to be up the hill a lot so maybe they have a granary or something up there, but they ~~don't~~ aren't storing down in the flats themselves.

1985

1 February 1250. There was a ♂ in the granary, where there are now 214 acorns. Looks like there's definitely a group here.

14 April 830. ♀ chased a bird here - the chaser was ♀ Wh-Blk/Red(?) 988 / ♂ Blk/M. A 2nd bird here flycatching. ♀988 was the 2nd bird I caught here last fall.

Melanerpes formicivorus

MacFlat HNHR

22 April **Group Update**

Lets redo this one. Since Ron says there wasn't a group here last spring, there wasn't. Lets have all 3 form the group ⓪ Sept. (1♂, 2♀♀, all unbanded). The 2 ♀♀ presumably got banded (985, 988)

30 April 1920. Watched for an hour before dusk and at roosting, but other than seeing birds here I didn't find out much.

14 May Another unsuccessful attempt to find the nest here this morning. 2 birds were in view regularly, however I did not see 3 together.

16 May Found a hole where 1 bird (at least) is roosting. It could also be a nest...

20 May 1100. Finally found the nest: it's in a live oak on the POHill side just up from the burned snag, ~40m from the road. I think the babies are pretty old and that it needs to be opened soon. Like today.

1800. Opened the nest: 3 babies, ~16 to (guess).

30 May Injected the babies for DLW and banded them as #1072-1074.

31 May Bled the babies today (but lost 1072's sample!)

1 June After bleeding the babies yesterday I put an ambush up and - amazingly enough - the ub ♂ was in it this morning! He is now ~~#1082~~ #1082. I released him at 0430.

1530. Bled j1072 again, but not the others.

16 October 900. Trying to watch here. 910. ⓪♂ DB-wh/M #1082 Birds have stores here. ②♂ Red/Mv-wh #1073 ③♂ Or-Yel/M Yel/Yel #1074 Also an ad♀ but she got away without me getting her bands.

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

MacFlat Nest Record

HNHR

20 May 1800 — Nest opened, 3 babies

		(1072) (1) Blk	(1073) (2) Red	(1074) (3) Yel
	20 May 1500	71.1 (39)	71.2 (38)	61.1 (30)
1st wt	30 May 1425	81.50 (90)	80.45 (93)	76.20 (86)
		240 µl (clean)	240 µl (clean)	240 µl (clean)
Injection Time		1533	1535	1538
Wt at Blood Sample		(39a) 80.65	(40a) 79.85	(41a) 75.05
	31 May	Wt → Time of sample: 76.10 (98)	79.95 (99)	72.55 (94)
		39B	40B	41B
		Time of Blood sample → 1555	1557	1559
		This sample LOST		
	1 June 1538	70.45		
		Time → (1538) (39C)		

Melanerpes formicivorus

McFlat HNHR

(16 October) 940. ♂ ④ wh-Blk/Red ♀ Blk/M #988 Never was sure of the sex; Probably a ♂. NO-a ♀

1000. ⑤ ♀ M/Yel(?) # It's possible this is the same bird as #4 and that I made up the Yellow band.

1044 ⑥ ♂ Red-wh/Blk # 1072

1045. Leaving. Birds are here! This is the whole group.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Road 3 HNHR

8 September 905. Watching from the truck. Noone in any holes.
925 ♂? with LB # 654 in the big Valley Oak on the E side of the road.
935. Leaving. With an unbanded ♀ here I think we'll go for an ambush soon.

15 September 545. After several days of watching here an ambush netted only ♂654.

3 November 915. ♂654 preening up the hill above R3/MacFlat.
Caught ♂792 tonight by himself in the granary; we held him overnight and let him go the next morning with a radio collar on—

12 November Still no success at catching the ♀, but we have found several new holes by following & tracking down ♂792 - who has now roosted in 6 different holes during the last 6 nights!

17 November Still no success, despite constant efforts. Last night Phillip & I tracked ♂792 to an area by the old dying VO toward Finch. This morning we checked it out and found him - dead - apparently eaten by a hawk as his brain was pecked open and eaten while the rest of him was intact. Phillip had last tracked him on the 15th, so he almost certainly was eaten yesterday!

There were also claw marks (punctures) in the body...

8 December ♀ here still unbanded, and I have no idea where they roost.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Road 3 Hastings Reservation

1 February 1230. Counted stores: Main tree: 708 } 838
2° tree: 130 }
Doesn't seem particularly full, but they're doing OK. No birds seen.

8 April 2 birds roosted in the sycamore tonight (Missy).

11 April Yet another failed ambush here. That's about the end of "tennis ball" technology - the monofilament gets messed up too easily.

22 April ** Group Update **
j949, 950, 951. All NSAB. Missy may have seen one of these, but we doubt it, so they're all going for now.

5 May So far no luck at finding the (a) nest here. Missy up on the hill watching this afternoon.

6 May 945. Watched from up on the hill for nearly 2 hrs. The birds (only a pair) were all over, but didn't act as though they had a nest. However, right at the end they finally gave it away when the ♀ (and ♂ briefly) went to the hole in the sycamore facing the creek. As she was still in it when I made it down, my bets are on it. In any case, either it's not even quite started yet or she's probably just laying.

Also at the end the ♂ flew over the creek to a big Valley Oak up along the gorge where the pipeline comes down from the Arnold. In the tree he was met and eventually chased by at least 3 other birds. I went over there and looked around - the tree is an old granary, but appears not to be in current use. However, there just may be another

Melanerpes formicivorus

Road 3 HN HR

(6 May) group over here on the side of the hill à la Warp 5-like.

9 May Philip climbed the hole here this afternoon and reports 4 eggs.

14 May I hear a fair amount of activity here this morning. At 945 I came by and saw 1 bird who garricked a couple of times, noone was in the hole. It might be worth checking here to make sure they're OK.

955. Garricks, some drumming, and chasing here. I bet somebody got nailed - let's hope it was the ♀....

15 May 700. Watching.

710. Apparently still only a pair here. ① ♀ ub. Well, unfortunately, it looks like it's the ♂, who is also ub. These guys are waka-ing a lot, clearly suggesting that his appearance is new. Could be time to try and catch them again.

715. Going to see if anything's left of the nest.

730. Well - the eggs are still there, but cold and not opaque - hence abandoned. I wonder what happened to the ♂?

Group Update

♂654. Apparently nailed by something between 9 & 14 May → D.A. 12 May 1985.

Add → ub ♂. Moved here 13 May 1985. (#5227)

17 May 545. Success at last! Banded them both* after an ambush in the hole out over the road, where they've roosted (at least) the last

**1010(♀) 1011(♂) 2 nights. The ♀ was heavy and, given the copulations (at least 2) I've seen the last 2 days, is probably about to lay, or maybe has even started again already. By the time I released the ♂ at least 1 intruder was already here, but nothing serious had begun.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Road 3 Nest Record

	HNHR
9 May	4 eggs (Philip)
15 May 730	still 4 eggs, but nest abandoned (♂ gone). Eggs measured: ① 24.3 × 19.9 ② 23.9 × 19.0 ③ 24.1 × 19.5 ④ 24.8 × 19.3
This nest was abandoned, apparently due to death of the ♂. See notes.	
26 May 1720	2 (new) eggs
2 June 1600	4 eggs ① 27.7 × 18.7 ② 27.3 × 18.8 ③ 27.4 × 18.8 ④ 27.5 × 18.1
10 June 1400	2 eggs have hatched (MS)
20 June 1115	2 babies, 1 transplanted to Road 1 for the day
1 July 1400	2 babies banded
(White) 1125	1126
66.7 (76)	77.5 (87)

Melanerpes formicivorus

Road 3 HNHR

(17 May) I am furthermore fairly certain that these are the only 2 birds here.

26 May The birds have been in the same nesthole again several times so at 1720 we checked it: 2 eggs (Mark, with the peeper).

2 June Steuback checked the nest and measured the 4 eggs.

20 June Two babies here; 1 transplanted to R1 for the day.

21 June Returned the 2nd baby

1 July Mark banded the 2 babies as #1125-1126.

18 October 630. Successful ambush of ♂1011 and the new nb ♀ (now ♀1173) who has replaced ♀1010, no longer here. Neither baby is here either anymore (see Katy's notes for 16 October).

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

School Hill — HNHR

20 March — Jim reports having heard a woodpecker up here this morning - reoccupation?

21 March — 1520. Up here watching.

1550. No sign of Wicker life. But it's sort of a cool, windy day, so maybe someone's hiding. My guess is There's noone here permanently yet.

10 September — 710. Well, that wasn't hard. There is a nest here with very young babies up in the large Blue Oak above the exclosure!

1045. 3 babies, not so small...

1985

19 January — 1210. Counted stores: Main tree: 990; 2° tree 60 } 1050

There's no telling when this happened, but it appears that most or all of the storage limbs at "School Hill B" have fallen. The tree is still there, but there no longer seems to be places to put acorns.

10 April — ♀976 seen at CV#1 Power Struggle today. See CV notes.

26 April — 1700. ♂ (and 6 eggs!) in my favorite old hole here, which is currently in fine shape.

19 May — Two babies and 4(!) unhatched eggs here!

31 May — Banded the babies as ~~#1082-1085~~. #1087-1088.

3 June — Philip ambushed up here and caught a helper, ♀976. We put a transmitter on her. Unfortunately, she ended up getting her bill caught in the harness (it was a 5+ grm one) and died, either late on 4 June or on 5 June.

Melanerpes formicivorus

School Hill Nest Record (Fall) HNHR

10 September 1045 3 babies, no eggs

	976 ① Blk-Yel	977 ② LP-BP	③ 978
10 Sept. 1045	23.6 (13)	20.8 (12)	19.9 (12)
30 Sept. 1030	62.0 (62)	80.3 (75)	63.9 (54)

Melanerpes formicivorus

School Hill Nest Record HNHR

Hole in the old traditional hole (fall '74, 75, etc.)

26 April 1700 — 6 eggs, freshish
① 24.5 × 20.3
② 25.0 × 20.5
③ 25.8 × 20.2
④ 25.1 × 19.2
⑤ 24.7 × 19.9
⑥ 24.4 × 19.0

19 May 1615 — 2 babies + 4 unhatched eggs- all appear undeveloped

	① 1087	② 1088
19 May 1615	70.5 (26)	68.4 (24)
31 May 1315	93.8 (88)	94.3 (87)

Both have black bands

	42803	
Orange-Mauve / 902-		DGreen / Red-DGreen
DBlue	/ Yellow-Mauve	LGreen / 902 42804

Melanerpes formicivorus

School Hill HNHR

9 July Missy went up here to do a watch.
~21 August Stanback reports that "lots" of acorns remain here.

Melanerpes formicivorus

School Hill West HNHER

10 September 725. Mig, This is extraordinary - these birds have a nest with young babies also, up in the granary!
1120. 3 babies, a day or 2 older than School Hill's...

16 September 1010. Watching the hole with an ambush set up for the ♀.
1235. Leaving. The birds are in the vicinity but apparently don't believe in feeding their young. Noone has even been in the nest tree since I arrived.

17 September 730. Here again, still waiting for a bird to go into the nest tree.
830. Leaving. Looks like I'm going to have to face up to the (apparent) fact that these birds simply aren't going to come to the nest while I'm around.

23 September 645. Trying again; all set up to get the ♀.
745. Leaving; will come back with a hide.
1015. Back again; in hide.
1200. Leaving. They really don't feed here.

29 September 930. Waiting for the ♀ again.
1050. ♂ BP-LP/M/BP-LP #530 here along with a 2nd bird.
1100. Both ♂530 and ♀u6 just fed, but the babies are at the hole entrance.
1110. Took the 2 babies out and banded them as ~~#973 #974~~ while waiting for one more feeding. I take that back - I left all the banding gear at the labs so I'm not banding them yet.
1230. Leaving, but letting the trap stay up for an ambush.
At dusk, nobody roosted in the nest after I scared out one bird.

30 September 715. Watching from hide. 745. ♀ fed at entrance. 755. Babies removed and banded as #974 & 975.

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

School Hill West Nest Record (Fall) 1984 HNHR

10 September 1120 — 3 babies

	#974 ① DP	#975 ② Mv	③
10 Sept. 1120	31.2 (16)	31.0 (16)	21.9 (13)
16 Sept. 1245	Still 3 babies		
~~29 Sept. 1145~~			(not here 29 Sept.)
30 Sept. 800	68.3 (90)	68.8 (85)	Gone

(30 September) 1000. Giving up. Both finally came but wouldn't go into the empty hole.

1985

19 January 1230. I didn't do a good count, but I'd say they have 250-300 acorns stored here in the main granary.

22 April ** Group Update **
No changes for now, although I doubt the babies are still here.

26 April 1730. 4 eggs, incubated, in the same hole as last fall.

23 May 1630. Banded the 3 babies as #1040-1042.

~21 August Stanback reports that some acorns remain here.

Melanerpes formicivorus

School Hill West Nest Record HNHR

In hole in granary tree; same hole as fall '84

26 April 1730 4 eggs, incubated

① 26.8 × 19.9

② 26.7 × 20.4

③ 26.9 × 20.7

④ 26.0 × 19.5

23 May 1630 3 babies, banded

	(1040)	(1041)	(1042)
23 May 1630	85.2 (80)	88.2 (81)	90.5 (76)
crown development	2	1	3

Melanerpes formicivorus

Black Oak HNHR

19 February 1030. Counted stores: Central area: 1315 } 2111
Fallen tree 201 }
Side area 595 }

Doing well, considering the many holes they've lost when the fallen tree finally fell to the ground!

1120. Up at the "Corral" by Bianca are 3 birds, who have now flown off toward Black Oak. 1 is ♂ OR/DB-OR, the same (as yet unidentified) bird I saw here last week.

8 April Watched roosting here tonight (Philip & Kim). ~5 birds; possible nest.

9 April Set up ambush, but nobody roosted in the hole. Over in the nest hole, however, are 8 eggs - 2♀♀ for sure.

They wouldn't roost in the rigged hole.

1 May 1345. Net set up in front of hole. They have had babies here for some time, but I haven't opened the hole to see how many.

4 May 700. Net up again. Caught 1 bird by 1200: ♂744
This bird, an '82 nestling, abandoned in Sept. 1983 and hadn't been seen since!

16 May 730. Banded the 6 babies here as #1004 - 1009.

18 May 1115. Actually caught 1 of the ub ♀♀ in the net set up in front of the hole: now ♀1025.

3 June 1600. Bird in the hole in the central area; could be a 2nd nest.

9 June Mark watched here this morning and saw lots of birds, including ♀1025 and 2 other ub ♀♀. Hence, as feared, there is apparently a 3rd ♀ here!

No sign of a 2nd nest.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Black Oak Nest Record

HNHR

9 April 1730 — 8 eggs, fresh

1 May 1430 — Babies

16 May 730 — 6 babies, banded #1004-1009

	①1004	②1005	③1006	④1007	⑤1008	⑥1009
16 May 730	85.5 g (99)	86.0 (100)	84.9 (96)	81.7 (95)	79.9 (89)	92.0 (89)
	close	close	close	close	6	close

26 June — Mark climbed: 7 eggs

For measurements, see Stanback's notes.

22 July 630 — Banded 3 (light) babies

1146	1147	1148
50.2 (45)	47.6 (36)	45.8 (43)

Melanerpes formicivorus

Black Oak HNHR

26 June Mark climbed the 2nd nest here (in central area - old hole) and found 7 eggs, including 1 runt.

21 July Set up 2 ambushes. They do have stored acorns remaining here.

22 July Banded the 3 babies and caught 1 bird (♂ 1009) in an ambush.

Stanback reports a few acorns stored here on 21 August+

1 November 700. Caught 4 babies from the 1st brood in an ambush at the nest hole. As usual, the adults were very wary and would not go in the hole (or any other I know about) once I set up ambushes.

19 December 1030. watching from blind.
1100. ① ♂ Dk/Or #1005.
1135. ② ♀ unb. ③ 2nd ♀ unb.
1155. ④ ? Yel/Maroon #1009.
1235. ⑤ ♂ Blk/Or #426. Leaving. Birds are spending time high up, especially over toward Bianca.

1984
1985

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

SOBO HINHR

4 November *Group update* ♀739. Last seen here 15 April (by Denise), at Keep Out by November, Moved ~0 July ± 2 months.

1985

19 February 1040. Watching. Lots of stores here, as well as a small convention of Mountain Quail.

1045. ①♂DB-WR(w)/Red #736. ②ub♀(!).

1110. Looks like this is probably it. ♀658 is clearly gone. (actually, I haven't gotten an ironclad look at the ♀, but I'm pretty sure she's unbanded).

23 April **Group Update**

ub♀. Denise saw an ub♀ here 15 Apr. 1984, who presumably finally filled the vacancy created back in 1982 by the loss of ♀640. So → Moved here ~~0 April 1984~~ ~~0 March 1984~~ 0 April 1984 (but could have been anytime between ~ Summer ~~1984~~ 1983 and spring '84.

♂639. last seen 15 April '84; gone by ~~1984~~ 9 Sept. → DA → 27 June 1984 ± 2 months.

♀658. Last seen 9 Sept 1984 (Philip), gone by 19 Feb → DA 30 Nov 1984 ± 2 months

♂736. Became a breeder when his mother (♀840) disappeared in 1982. Now the breeding ♂ here along with an ub♀.

29 April 1730. Noone in any holes here; I walked all over but found very little that looked promising.

1 May 1650. Found it! It's way off in the forest and will be a

Melanerpes formicivorus

SOSO HNHR

(1 May) bitch to get to (it's way up in a Valley Oak) but it's obviously there. No sounds heard when the bird flushed, so they probably still have eggs. I just hope I can find it again when I come to open it!

4 May 1000. Opened the hole: 3 babies, ~9 do (eyes not quite opened yet).

22 May 1500. Banded the 3 babies as #1037 - 1039. They are just about ready to go!

(1037)	(1038)	(1039)
86.8 (93)	86.5 (93)	89.1 (94)

20 July Passed by here looking for a 2nd nest with no success. However, I did note that they have no acorns remaining in the granary.

21 August Stanback reports a "very few acorns stored here". I suspect that means none.

1984
1985

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Arnold 1

HNHR

31 October — Set 2 ambushes here tonight, including 1 with a Tennis Ball (new technology) in the old Big Tree roost hole. At dusk, several birds went into the Big Tree hole, while 3 went into a new hole along the road just across from the Big Tree hole; I'm pretty sure 6 birds were involved altogether. I inadvertently flushed 2 birds from the new hole, 1 of which went to the granary hole. I then pulled the string and took ♀586 out of that hole. Back across the road at Big Tree I pulled ♀505 and ♂679, leaving at least a 4th bird that I couldn't reach.

1 November — 800. The 4th bird is the mythical "♂100". I pulled off his bands, of which only 1 per leg remained. They look LP-Bm LP-Bm, possibly a faded Or-Bm Or-Bm. In any case, I rebanded him with new bands and will take a careful look at the others later on.

My current guess is that there are 6 birds here: these 4 plus 2 babies (?) fledged from the new hole this fall (or last spring?). I will keep trying for them!

1985

19 February — 930. Counted stores: 2359. Doing well!

13 April — 1600. Bird in hole in main tree - probably it.

23 April — 1715. Climbed up: 2 very young babies (probably day 0, though maybe day 1) plus 1 opaque but unpipped egg.

18 May — 1000. Banded the 4 babies as #1018-1021 (I obviously missed at least 1 egg - the bottom of the hole is hard to reach).

Melanerpes formicivorus

Arnold 1 Nest Record HNHR

23 April 1715 2 young (day 0) babies + 1 opaque (developed) egg, unpipped.

18 May 950 4 babies (guess I missed at least 1 egg!) Banded

	1018	1019	1020	1021
	86.9 (92)	87.2 (92)	84.0 (82)	74.5 (77)
Crown Development	1	1	3	3
	Tied for 1st		Tied for 3rd	

Melanerpes formicivorus

Arnold 1 HNHR

19 October 1050. Watching from blind.
1110. ① ♂ DG/LG-DB #1020. ② ♂ Red-LG/M #1019. ③ ♀ WR-DB/M #568.
1130. ④ ♂ LB-DG/M #679. ⑤ ♂ M/ #100(?)
1150. ⑥ ♂ Yel-LB/Or ? Seen well. I suppose this is j♂1021.
1200. Leaving. Still some birds not seen here.

21 August Stanback reports a "very few stored acorns remaining," which quite likely means none.

1984
1985

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Keep Out HNHR

1 November 840. Watching from hide. There are new acorns in the granary, so there are certainly birds here.

841. ♀ M/LB? ? Not ♀900, last listed for here.

930. ♂ Yel?/Wh? Banded, anyway. ① ♂ Red/Blk M/ looks pretty much like ♂706.

1010. 2nd bird: ? LB/Yel → looks very much like ♀739 from SOBO. Yes: ♀ M/LB? Yel?

1020. Leaving. I wouldn't swear there's not a 3rd bird here, but my guess is there are only these 2: ♂706 & ♀739. The 2 helpers are most likely gone. (♂899 & ♀900).

Group Uptake

Add ♀739; last seen at SOBO 15 April, will sort of arbitrarily be sent to Keep Out on ~~0~~ July (as far as I can tell, nobody watched either of these groups much last spring). But: lets add her after the loss of ♀900, seen 8 June.

♂899. Last seen 1 March (by whom?). Disappeared by 1 Nov → DA. 1 July ± 4 months

♀900. Last seen 8 June (by whom?) Gone, we'll say, ~1 July.

Timing is pretty arbitrary here; nobody paid much attention to this group, apparently.

1985

12 February 1115. Counted stores: 617. Pretty good for this group.

7 April 1000. ♂ in hole in Live Oak. Could be the 1st nest of the year!

13 April 1530. ♂ in hole, along with 5 eggs (numbered 1-5 in probable laying sequence as determined by dirt on eggs).

Melanerpes formicivorus

Keep Out Nest Record — HNHR

13 April 1530 — 5 eggs, numbered 1-5.

23 April 1600 — 4 babies, 1 undeveloped egg

	①	②	③	④
23 April 1600	7.2	5.9	7.9	3.6

Babies were too small for bands.

3 May 1020	2 babies only #1016 ① DBlue	#1017 Missing R leg! ② No leg	
3 May 1020	47.10 gm ~~Transplanted to FA~~ Left in nest	27.75 Transplanted to FA	Added from Fanny Arnold 5 May ③ LBlue ④ Le
4 May 1050	54.95	(28.05)	
5 May 1030	59.05	33.40	(41.45) (33.95)
6 May 1015	59.85	33.05	40.80 31.75 (Returned to F.A.)
7 May 1020	69.0	37.5	
18 May 800	90.7 (94) heavy tail spotting	62.1 (33)	

30 June — 2nd nest! Same hole, 1 baby banded

FED ~

(1127) Not weighed; Mark estimates ~14 do.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Keep Out HNHR

23 April 1600. Nest check: 4 young (~2 do) babies + 1 undeveloped egg.

3 May Today I began the experiment to see how/if adults adjust their feeding rates to the number of babies in the nest. Vas and I came up early (615), set up blinds here and at Fanny Arnold, and then did a nest watches - she here and me at Fanny Arnold. Here there was only the pair, as expected. I then did the following: ① Weighed the babies here. There were 2, both rather different in size.

② I left the bigger baby here and took the 2nd (the one with only 1 leg)

③ I took a baby from UA2's nest.

④ I added both these babies to the 3 they had at Fanny Arnold.

All babies were weighed and transferred between 1000-1100, immediately following the watches.

Hence: today is Control Day #1. Tomorrow is Experimental Day #2, in which KeepOut's brood has been reduced from 2 to 1 and Fanny Arnold's increased from 3 to 5.

4 May Experimental Day #2. Vas watched here again, 645-1000.

5 May Control Day #3. Vas watched; 2 babies added afterwards.

6 May Experimental Day #4. Unfortunately, the Arnold was completely socked in with fog this morning, at least when we arrived. It was also cold. Nonetheless, Vas watched again

7 May Control Day #5. Vas watched; Philip weighed w/ Pesola.

18 May Banded the babies as #1016-1017. The no-leg one is far behind and his leg is gone almost up to the hip, but he's hanging in there.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Keep Out HNHR

(18 May) After mulling it over a bit, I nabbed the legless baby: he's ok, but so far behind and his leg is so mangled and still raw such that I'm sure he wouldn't make it any further than out of the nest, if that. So: this group raised 2 babies to banding age, but j1017 "died before fledging."

30 June I noted a 2nd nest in the same hole a few days ago; today Stanback banded the single baby as #1127, who was ~14 do.

21 August Stanback saw no stored acorns here today.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lambert HNHR

1 November 1050. Watching; There are several birds here. First was a v. brief look at: ♂ LB-Red/Red-LB (bands not seen v. well) #624.

1200. Leaving a hide here. There are several birds, but I'm obviously not seeing them.

4 November 930. Watching from hide. ① ♂624 again.

1015. ② ♂ DBlue, probably #546 (came to tape). → Yes: ♂ LG/DB #546; and now ③ ♀ Red-Yel/Red #720. All 3 breeders are here; no sign of ♂777 thus far.

1040. I've seen the 3 again at least once, but I wouldn't be surprised if there's still a 4th bird here.

1050. Whoopee! Here he is: ♂ Blk/Wh-LB #777. All here!

1100. Leaving.

1985

12 February 1045. Counted stores:

Lambert FT:	1812	5654
"Nest" tree:	630	
Hastings VO	960	
Hastings FT:	2252	

There are lots of new holes in the bark of the 2 live trees; I do not remember them using the bark very much before.

13 April 1550. Noone seen in any holes here.

5 May 1100. Nest is in ~~some~~ hole in the Mid-way tree ½ way down toward Keep Out. Babies (5!) are ~12do, eyes opened.

8 May Injected The babies for DLW.

16 May Nest watch: 800-1100. Afterwards I transplanted 2 of the 5 babies to UA2.

17 May Nest watch 800-1100: No feedings. It was so bad that I stopped and checked the nest ½-way through, but the babies are fine.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Hanbert Nest Record — HNHR

5 May 1100 — 5 babies, eyes open

8 May 930 — 5 babies, injected for DLW

	① Maune	② LP	③ Wh	④ Or	⑤ DB
8 May 930	61.65	57.60	68.80	62.20	62.75
9 May 1045					
16 May 1145	71.5 (88)	74.0 (78)	80.5 (90)	~~71.0~~ (91)	72.5 (86)
			Removed to UA-2		
	(1031)	(1032)	(1029)	(1030)	(1033)
18 May 1200	75.8 (96)	80.6 (85)	(79.1) [98]	(68.8) [100]	80.8 (95)
			Returned from UA-2 on 18 May		
19 May 1110	72.0 (97)	76.8 (86)	81.2 (105)	69.2 (105)	72.8 (99)

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lambert HNHR

(17 May) The weather wasn't great (cool, ptly cloudy) but it certainly wasn't worse than yesterday.

18 May Missy watched, after which I returned the 2 babies I'd put over at UA2 and banded all 5 as #1029-1033.

19 May I watched today, then weighed the babies. Only ♀775 was into feeding more than a negligible amount.

21 August Stanback saw "some" acorns stored here.

1984
1985

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Fanny Arnold — HNHR

9 September 900. Watched for ~15 min here and walked around, but saw no sign of stores or birds.

915. I take it all back! ①♀ WR-BLK/M #834 and ?♂? DB-WR/DG #940, both in the smallish Valley Oak with the roost holes. There are birds here.

932. w6♂ in the Big Valley Oak poking around; doesn't look like he belongs here. 933. Chased out by 2 birds.

938. A bird flew in for a second with Yel (sdid) on LL leg - but noone looks like this. ♀834 is here again.

940. ♀834 just picked an acorn, so the season is getting close.

1985

12 February 1145. Counted stores: 692. (!) This group now has a reasonable set of holes scattered about. Promising new areas include a dead tree on the Al side of the ravine and (especially) the old nest tree, where they have ~250 holes stored in a couple of burned limbs.

23 April **Group Update**

8835. This bird was removed in Nov'83 and returned (along with 2 others) on 12 March 1984 but was never seen again → Dis. (Not seen after) 12 March 1984.

1645. Found the nest here - low in the smallish Valley Oak near the fence. The babies have just hatched (day 2 at most); there are 4 of them & no residual eggs.

3 May I did the watch here today and as this is the companion group to Keep Out for the brood size/feeding rate

Melanerpes formicivorus

Fanny Arnold Nest Record

23 April 1645

HNHR

Nest found, recently hatched.
4 babies, no eggs

		①	②	③	④
23 April	1645	7.9	5.8	6.6	5.5
3 May	1030	3 babies, 2 added			
		① Blk-Wt	② LBlue	③ LG	④ No leg
3 May	1030	36.75	33.10 ~~33.10~~	28.20	(27.75)
4 May	1030	39.45	37.85	27.60	28.05 Put back
5 May	1010	46.70	41.45 Removed	33.95 Removed	-
6 May	1030	52.60	(40.80) (Returned)	(31.75) (Returned)	
7 May	1015	52.0	50.5	39.5	(Weighed with Pesola)
8 May	1000	60.35	55.60	45.15	
		(1022)	(1023)	(1024)	
18 May	1030	91.0 (77)	93.5 (70)	85.0 (62)	
Crown Dev:		1	2	3	

#2 from Keep Out ④ No leg

from ~~F~~ HA2 Black ⑤ Put Back

JLW

Melanerpes formicivorus

Fanny Arnold HNHR

(3 May) experiment. See KeepOut notes for details. After the control watch (645-1000), I added 2 babies here, one from KeepOut and 1 from UA2.

4 May Missy watched here today 645-1000. I failed to mention That The 2 big feeders here are ♀834 and ♂940, who is almost surely a breeder. A prominent 3rd ♂ bird who was here but didn't feed was ♂835 (!) At least 2 others were in the area, but didn't come to where I could see them.

5 May I watched today, control day #3. Afterwards, I removed 2 of the 3 babies.

All 3 adults fed ~~all~~ today, but ≥2 additional birds were still here also, but not near the nest.

6 May Missy watched (exp. day #4). Weather was cold and fogged in. Afterwards, the babies were returned home.

7 May Control day #5. Missy watched; Philip weighed babies with the Pesola.

8 May 955. Injected the babies with DLW

18 May 1030. Banded the babies as #1022-1024.

24 May 845. Watching territory from blind. 900. Baby is looking out of the hole. ① ♀ Light Dg/M #834 at hole. ② ♂ M/Or-Yel #835 in nest tree

945. There definitely appears to be a "separate" pair in the trees over to the south, as suggested during the watches earlier this month.

1000. ♂ is ub for sure. ♀ also appears ub. Probably only a pair here. Found the nest! Let's call this group "Tom Arnold".

21 August: No stores seen (Stanback)

Melanerpes formicivorus

Tom Arnold HNHR

24 May Earlier this month we kept hearing birds nearby while we were watching Fanny Arnold, but these birds did not come over to Fanny Arnold. Today I finally watched and discovered ① yes there does appear to be a new group here ② it seems to consist of an ub pair ③ they have a nest and appear to be feeding babies (not dipping yet). See "Fanny Arnold" notes for details of today's watch.

I hear no noises from the hole: maybe they're still incubating.

25 May 1600. Opened the nest: 4 hatchlings, 2 of whom are on the way out. Actually, this is probably day 1 for them.

These birds will be given a founding date of "0" April.

3 June Had a net up in front of the hole, 1430-1630, no luck. The babies were in there, however.

9 June Netted this morning and eventually got the ♀ as ♀1098.

13 June 400. Ambushed at the nest this morning but only ♀1098 was in the hole (unless the ♂ got out before I pulled the string!)! Also, there are only 2 babies left here.

15 June 1030. Banded the 1 remaining baby as #1102; the 2nd baby was dead in the nest.

Missy tried to catch the ♂ afterwards.

31 December These birds pettered out fast on or about the time I banded the baby (who I suspect didn't even fledge).

Group Update Missy played the tape and got only Fanny Arnold birds on 3 July, so they were certainly gone by then. Baby NSAB; Adults ID Abandoned (NSA) → 24 June ± 1 week.

There is no separate group here anylonger.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Tom Arnold Nest Record HNHR

26 May 1600 4 hatchlings

	① 1102	②	③	④
26 May 1600	11.0	8.1	3.6	3.8
13 June	here	here	(2 babies)	
15 June	70.0 (64)	31.7 (dead)		

1984
1985

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

UA2 HNHR

9 September 745. Here we are, waiting for some birds.

845. I hear birds way off somewhere, but noone is coming in here; leaving. There are no obvious stores here yet.

1985

12 February 1200. I still don't see birds, but there are lots of stores:

"Main tree": 1066
Snag: 1885
} 2951

Doing well!

7 April 1015. Watching from blind.

1030. The tape definitely brings them in. Seen have been ① ♂ DB/LB-Or/DG/M #123, ② ♀ Or-Wh/Or-Wh #632, ③ ♂ Y/M/Y/I #681, and ♀ Y-LB/LG/Y-LB/M #916.

1050. As intruders in the lower nest tree are 2 ub ♀♀ and ♀ M/DB/DB-Wh(h)/DB ?.

1115. Still an occasional intruder and lots of activity here. But I'm still only seeing the same 4 birds, except for intruders. They could very well be it.

1130. Still lots of action although I haven't turned the tape on in > ½ hr, but still no sign of anyone besides the 4. Leaving.

1615. Noone seen in any holes.

23 April ** Group Update *

~~♀779 Last seen 8 Mar~~

♀779, ♀914, ♂915. All 3 seen in mid-March 1984, no more censuses all year(!) but we will guess that they left that spring (DA → 0 May 1984) but in fact it could have been anytime between ~~April~~ April 1984 and ~~April~~ April 1985.

Melanerpes formicivorus

UA2 HNHR

1 May 1415. Found the nest: it's a new hole in the main granary. It has 3 babies, 10-11 do, + 4 eggs (1 runt!) Is it possible that 2 ♀♀ layed here? Where does such a runt come from?

8 May 1030. Injected the babies for DLW.

16 May Missy watched here this morning, after which I added 2 babies from Lambert to give this group (temporarily) 5.

18 May Banded the 3 babies (and returned the other 2 to Lambert) as # 1026-1028.

19 May After weighing the babies today j1027 fledged...

28 June Opened the 2nd nest here (new hole): there were 3 babies ~5 do, and no eggs.

60

Melanerpes formicivorus

UAZ Nest Record	HNHR
1 May 1415	3 babies, 11 do, + 4 eggs (= clutch size of 7)
	eggs: ① 26.4 × 19.2 Not developed!
	② 25.1 × 19.8 Not developed
	⑤ 25.2 × 18.2 Dead embryo
	④ 19.2 × 15.3 a runt!
3 May 1130	3 babies; smallest transplanted to Fanny Arnold
8 May 1030	3 babies, injected for DLW

	① Red	② Yellow	③ Black
8 May 1030	67.95	76.25	59.00

	① Red	② Yellow	③ Black	④ Wh (Added from Lambert)	⑤ Or (Added from Lambert)
16 May 1215 ~~1230~~	87.0 (89)	87.5 (95)	82.5 (84)	(80.5)	(71.0)
	(1026)	(1027)	(1028)	(Returned on 18 May)	
18 May ~~18~~ 1130	80.5 (92)	82.0 (103)	77.9 (94)	79.1 (98)	68.8 (100)
				Returned to Lambert	
19 May 1130	80.1 (102)	80.2 (107) fledged	75.8 (100)	–	–

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lower Arnold 2 HNHR

10 March 840. Watching here. There are few if any acorns left, but there is (supposedly) a group still here.

845. A ♂ here briefly. No - a ♀ ①♀ Or-LB/Or #783.

← I just made that up, mind you..

900. A ♂ came in - most likely ♂11 but he was skittish and I didn't get a good look. Aha! Birds are sapsucking back here! Moving hide.

945. Intruder! Chased off by ♀783. Now also (finally): ②♂ DB/LB # 698; he is now here sapsucking.

1000. ♀783 now here sapsucking. Intruder back a few minutes later, again chased by ♀783.

1015. A 3rd: ③♂ LG/Yel LG/M #782 in sap area now.

1030. All for now. Could still be a 4th bird here, of course, but 3 of 4 isn't bad.

9 September 745. Left Stanback here to watch. One bird was up in the burned Blue Oak granary when we arrived, so birds do exist here.

1985

12 February 1230. Several birds are flycatching over on the knoll toward Bianca; 2, at least, are banded and very likely LA2 birds.

Counted stores: Burned tree: 510
Inside areas: 343
} 853.

This group has also been busy making new holes here and there, especially in the Burned Tree. They are much better off than they used to be.

Two birds I may have seen (over at the old corral by Blk Oak) are ♂11 and ♀783, but my looks were none too good.

1315. Definitely seen here: (?) ♂ Or/DB-Or M/DB-Red. Who is this bird?

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lower Arnold 2 HNHR

14 April 1620. Noone seen in any holes.

Group Update

♀783. Last seen for sure on 4 April 84, I may have seen her on 12 Feb 85; now may still be here...? needs checking; leave for now.

♀939. Last seen 21 May 1984, gone by ~~this~~ 19 Feb 1985 → DA @ 0 Oct 1984 ± 4 months.

Two new ub ♀♀ filled this vacancy, apparently.

♂698. Became a breeder } with the disappearance of
♂782. " " " } ♀939.

29 April 1650. The new hole in the ~~dead~~ burned Blue Oak is it: there are 7 eggs + 1 newly hatched baby → hence, 2 ♀♀ certainly laid here. Since only 1 is listed, we should definitely watch here! "Clutch size" was obviously 8.

It turns out that Missy thought she saw 2 ub ♀♀ here last time, so almost certainly ♀783 is gone, having been replaced by these 2 (see notes above, 14 April).

1 May 1500. Checked the nest. There are only 3 babies and 5 unhatched eggs. 2 had clearly developed but died as embryos; 1 of these had possibly begun pipping. The other 3 had failed to develope entirely from the looks of it; 2 of these had small dents in the shell, possibly the result of some ill-timed pecking on the part of someone.

4 May 715. Set up to try and catch birds in the nest. Trapped a ♀ but she flew out another exit!

24 May Tried to net in front of the hole but no luck. Then at 1107 I checked it: empty. A failure. We then looked around

Méianerpes fornicivorus

Lower Arnold 2 Nest Record

HN HR

29 April 1700 — 7 eggs + 1 hatchling.

Day 0. 1 egg undeveloped.

1 May 1500 — 3 babies + 5 unhatched eggs.

(1) Developed; embryo died

Pipped or dented → (2) " " "

(3) }
(4) } Undeveloped. 2 had small
(5) } dents in the shell; possibly had been pecked.

24 May 1115 — Nest empty; failed.

3 June 1645 — Opened the new nest: 9 eggs

Probably a runt, Width = 16.5 mm → (1 damaged [not by us]

13 June 500 — Eggshells and 1 dead baby below nest.

28 June — 2 babies banded

(1116)	(1117)
79.6 (45)	77.8 (50)

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lower Arnold 2 HNHR

(24 May) and found a nice new hole in the back Valley Oak, but no immediate sign that it was being used.

27 May Mark found the new nest here today; apparently they're incubating.

3 June 1600. Stanback opened the new nest here: 9 eggs, 1 of which is ½ caved in and dried up.

9 June Tried to net here this morning with no success, but the nest is still going.

13 June 500. Underneath the nest are eggshells and 1 dead baby (wt 18g) So I'd guess they hatched several days ago.

15 June 1200. Put up a net for awhile this morning but didn't catch anyone. Worse than that, I don't think anyone ever came to the hole or that a bird was in it to begin with. Hence, I greatly suspect that the nest here has failed.

28 June We banded the 2 babies here as #1116, 1117.

21 August Stanback reports a few acorns still here.

1984
1985

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Bianca HNHR

10 March 1035. Flushed a ♂ from the ravine area; he circled around the field but I was unable to get a good look at him; he very well may have been banded from what I saw, however.

1985

19 February 945. An unbanded ♂ and ♀ up at the top of the saddle near LA2. No guarantee that they are Bianca birds, but it seems likely.

Counted stores: 665, all in the "New" granary. There certainly is a group here, at least.

8 April Two birds roosted in the old nest hole tonight.

9 April Set up an ambush, but I only saw 1 bird go in the hole.

10 April Didn't see anyone go in the hole, but it turned out that the ♀ was in there. We banded her as #993. ~~She~~ She had a grossly distorted abdomen and is certainly laying. We put her back in her hole and stuffed it up to keep her in, but immediately upon pulling the rag out from the ground she flew out and off into the night.

The ♂ is presumably on the nest, wherever it is.

14 April 1630. Noone found in any holes here. One bird heard, however.

23 April **Group Update**

We'll let this group be founded in Sept. 1984.

1 May 1540. Noone in any known holes. Watching.

1610. Nothing going on here at all as far as I can tell. Are the birds even here?

17 May 745. Babies in the hole I ambushed the ♀ at!

Melanerpes formicivorus

Bianca HNHR

18 May 1100. Checked the nest: 3 babies, pretty old.

28 May Banded the 3 babies here this evening as #1058-1060.

19 October 1030. Several (~4) birds here. Watching for a bit.

30 October 700. Ambushed the nest hole here, bagging all 5 birds (the 3 babies, A♀, ub♂ now #1180). I kept them in my garage overnight and processed them this morning. Katy then returned them at about 800.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Bianca Nest Record HNHR

18 May 1100 3 baGrics

		1058 ① DB	1059 ② Blk-Wh	③ 1060
18 May	1100	66.2 (38)	70.1 (41	64.0 (30)
28 May	1830	80.2 (92)	83.5 (95)	82.7 (85)

203833